COUNTRY MUSIC Round Up

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Britain's 1st Country Music Newspaper

Vol XI No. VIII July 1987

65p

MONTHLY

EIRE 95p

THE NEW QUEEN NANCI GRIFFITH

This Month:

All Your Regular Reviews,

Including Rock Pile, Alternative Country

IT'S GREEN IN THE COUNTRY

TRI-SON NEWS COUNTRY QUESTIONS

PETERBOROUGH FESTIVAL BULLETIN PAGE

COUNTRY MUSIC ROUND UP

'HOUSE PARTY' AFLOAT

YOUR USUAL REPORTS FROM AROUND THE REGIONS.

Country Music Round-Up

AWARDS VOTING PAPER '87

NEWS • REVIEWS • FEATURES • COMMENTS • RECORDS • CLUBS • LETTERS

STEVE WARINER
it's a crazy world

SIDE ONE

SMALLTOWN GIRL
LYNDA
IF I COULD MAKE A LIVIN'
(OUT OF LOVIN' YOU)
THERE'S ALWAYS A FIRST TIME
WHY DO HEROES DIE SO YOUNG

SIDE TWO

WHEN IT RAINS
IT'S A CRAZY WORLD
HEY ALARM CLOCK
THE WEEKEND
FASTBREAK

MCA RECORDS

AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING RECORD STORES

● Advance registration for the 16th Annual Fan Fair surpassed 22,000 before the first of June and is, without a doubt, one of the best entertainment values available for the $60 per person fee.

More than 30 hours of outdoor concerts go with the package, daily admittance to the exhibit areas, admission to the Country Music Hall of Fame, Opryland USA, the Ryman Auditorium, the All American Country Games, and two barbeque dinners prepared by the world famous Chuck-wagon Gang of Odessa, TX. Among the artists scheduled to participate Bill Monroe, George Hamilton IV, Bill Anderson, Billy Joe Royal, Lynn Anderson, Tom T. Hall, Johnny Cash, Kathy Mattea, The Statlers, Asleep At The Wheel, George Jones Rattlesnake Annie, Sweethearts of the Rodeo, Gary Morris, Alabama, Lee Greenwood, Louis Mandrell, Judy Rodman, Charley Pride, Vince Gill, Ricky Skaggs, Highway 101, Jerry Clower, Desert Rose Band, Patty Loveless, Steve Wariner, Sawyer Brown, T. Graham Brown, Marie Osmond, Mel McDaniel, Dan Seals, Tanya Tucker, Johnny Russell, Little David Wilkins, Michael Johnson, Eddy Raven, Earl Thomas Conley, Dean Dillon, Restless Heart, Shotgun Red, Girls Next Door, and S-K-B.

● The popular syndicated series, Lifestyles of the Rich & Famous, were shooting footage of John Schneider throughout Fan Fair for an upcoming feature.

● At Bill Monroe's 21st annual Bean Blossom Bluegrass Festival (June 12-21) in Bean Blossom, IN. Officials of the National Bluegrass Music Assn. advised there will be more than 300 similar festivals held this summer around the country.

● For the first time, The Nashville Network will telecast live four hours of Willie Nelson's Annual Fourth of July Picnic. The all-day event, hosted by Nelson for the 14th year, will feature Waylon Jennings, Emmylou Harris, Kris Kristofferson, Joe Ely, Mighty King Snakes, Geezin-slaw Brothers, Rattlesnake Annie, Billy Joe Shaver, Roger Miller, Bruce Hornsby, Jerry Jeff Walker, Asleep At The Wheel, Country Dummies, and Williams & Ree. The concert will originate this year from Carl's Corner a community of 220 residents, on 1-35 about 60 miles south of Dallas. The community's focal point and namesake is a large truck stop owned by Carl Cornelius, across the road from the concert site and this year's event is dedicated to the American trucker. Cornelius said every trucker who fills his tank with at least 50 gallons of diesel at his truck stop will receive one free concert ticket. Tickets, priced at $20, are distributed nationally through Ticketron and Rainbow Ticketmaster outlets. For more information call 0101 (512) 462-0303.

New on the book market: Gold Buckle Dreams, the story of Chris LeDoux's dream of growing up to be a cowboy ...

and the reality as he became the 1976 World Champion Bareback Rider. Now an acclaimed Western music writer and performer, LeDoux has lived the exciting, vibrant life of a real-life cowboy: the heartbreaks and the injuries, the practical jokes and the hard-won victories. Written by David Brown, the book is available from Quinlan Press, 131 Beverley St., Boston, MA. 02114. The 202-page, hard cover book features 30 black-and-white photographs and sells for $16.95

"BIGGEST LITTLE NEWS SHEET IN COUNTRY MUSIC"

Loudilla, Loretta & Kay Johnson

Tri-Son News

MONTHLY BULLETIN BOARD

● Millions have come to love Tom T. Hall as "The Storyteller" and to respect him as one of the music business' most successful songwriters. Now he combines those two major talents in his latest work, **The Songwriter's Handbook**, published by Rutledge Hill Press, 513 Third Avenue, South; Nashville, TN. 37210. The hardcover book sells for $14.95.

● Johnny Rodriguez and staffers of Southwest Airlines, visited the Vanderbilt Children's Hospital in Nashville May 20th. Children were wheeled in, in wheel-chairs and pillow-stuffed little red wagons, while still connected to their intravenous bottles. Those who could, sat around in a circle to enjoy the entertainment. Johnny and three Southwest pilots handed out stuffed animals and toys to the children, too. "People should do this kind of thing more often," observed Rodriguez, "for the children, but also for themselves." Then looking at the room-full of children, he added, "It reminds me that my problems just aren't that big." The shows are organized once each month by Southwest's Nashville ground stewardess, Peg Herrington.

● Bobby Lord returns to the Nashville Network on July 5th with a new series, Celebrity Outdoors, similar to the old Country Sportsman series which he hosted during a successful four-year run, ending in March of this year. But this series will emphasise more travel and will feature famous persons pursuing a variety of sporting activities. The first episode features T.G. Sheppard visiting New Zealand. Then Johnny Cash invites Lord to his historic Jamaican vacation home, Cinnamon Hill, for barracuda fishing and an impromptu performance by Cash and a local calypso band. On the July 26 show, Barbara Mandrell and family tour the active volcanic and thermal regions of New Zealand. Highlights include trout fishing and sheep sheering lessons for Barbara.

● Key Video will release 11 Elvis Presley films July 16, commemorating the 10th anniversary of his death (Aug 16). The $19.98 titles are: Love Me Tender, King Creole, Flaming Star, G.I. Blues, Hawaii, Wild In The Country, Girls! Girls! Girls!, Fun In Acapulco, Paradise Hawaiian Style, Roustabout, and Tickle Me.

Artists On The Move: Eddy Raven to Entertainment Artists, Inc. ... Kelly Lang to The Talent Agency ... Johnny Rodriguez to Buddy Lee Attractions, with whom Patty Loveless just re-signed ... Mickey Gilley and Lee Greenwood to William Morris Agency Nashville. Girls Next Door and Moe Bandy to The Jim Halsey Company ... The Mooreland House Music Group, Brentwood, handles Shotgun Red, Kathy Kitchen, Diana, Michael Twitty, Royce Porter, Alan Jackson, and Miss Behavin'.

● Ronny Robbins and his speedboat "Spare Parts" made their first appearance of the season over the May 16-17 weekend in Litchfield, IL., and won first place (in his class) at 154 mph. And that, friends is a pretty fast class!

● We extend speedy get-well wishes to our friend, Mae Boren Axton, who recently underwent extensive back surgery. Mae has suffered recurring back problems since she was involved in an automobile accident several years ago, which almost claimed her life.

● Loretta Lynn has not only been writing again with her own recording sessions in mind but has some she plans to pitch to fellow-artists. She has also busied herself this year with re-opening her Hurricane Mills' guest ranch as the Loretta Lynn Family Ranch after having leased it for the past several years. The 3500 acre ranch offers a full hookup campground, cabin rentals, western town, the Lynn's plantation home, 100 year old grist mill, Loretta's personal museum and gift shop, plus her Cookin' Country restaurant. Activities include swimming, miniature golf, tennis courts, and much more ... and of course, including live Country Music and Saturday night dances. Information is available by calling AC 0101 615/296 - 7700 or writing Loretta Lynn Family Ranch, Hurricane Mills, TN. 37078. USA.

● George Strait's "Ocean Front Property" album has earned him his 8th Gold Record. And MCA stablemate, Steve Earle's "Guitar Town" has been certified gold in Canada.

● Charlie Daniels is turning his attention to construction, with plans to build 12 indoor arenas throughout the country for equine events and concerts.

THE WORDS THAT GO WITH THE MUSIC ..

The arenas, a joint venture with Southeastern Arenas, are reportedly proposed for Florida, North Carolina, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama, and New York, with two planned for Tennessee. One has already been built in Unidilla, Georgia.

● Katy Bee reports while ousted Oak Ridge Boy, William Lee Golden was taking his £40 million lawsuit to court, the three remaining members - Joe Bonsall, Duane Allen, and Richard Sterban - were announcing Golden's replacement with the group, Steve Sanders. The Oaks are also celebrating their 10th anniversary with MCA Records and have been in the studio working on a new album, scheduled for release this fall.

● There's now a 7-foot statue of Dolly Parton in front of the courthouse in her hometown of Sevierville, Tenn. And there's also a new $1.6 million wing at the Sevier Country Medical Center, built by the Robert Thomas Foundation there. Dolly raised the money for it!

● Kenny Rogers and Ronnie Milsap have teamed-up to cut a duet version of "Make No Mistake, She's Mine," penned by Kim Carnes. The track will appear on both Milsap's and Rogers' next albums, both scheduled for July release.

● Ed Bruce embarks on a tour of Switzerland this month and returns to Europe for a multicity schedule through Germany, England, and Holland in late August.

● Didja' know ... Mel McDaniel, who hails from Okmulgee, OK., sponsors a softball team of 9 and 10 year-old boys in Oklahoma City? McDaniel revealed that he had always dreamed of having a ranch for kids who had nowhere to go. Since the reality is that he's a singer on the road most of the time, he didn't get to have the ranch, but he can still lend a hand and this is his way of doing just that ... in fine style!

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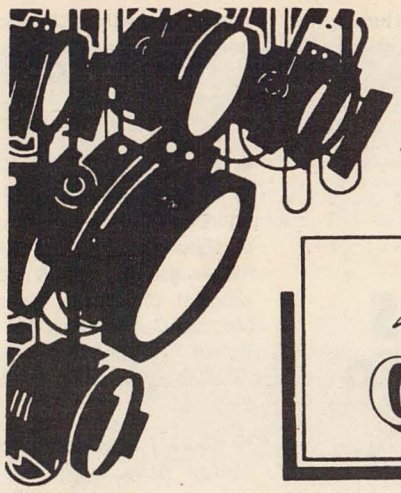

Country Music Round Up
International Country Music Awards

● Once again the Country Music Round Up, "International Awards" has received tremendous support with an 18% increase on the number of returns over the last years record poll. Proving yet again, that as far as "Round Up" readers are concerned, these Awards are a necessary and important segment of the European Country Music Scene.

● This year, three new categories have been introduced and the voting in these sections have given us a much clearer insight into the public's re-action to Record Marketing Campaigns and the increasing 'rapport" between Local Radio Country Music D.J.'s and their listeners ... The separate Duo, Trio Categories was obviously a welcome innovation, as the many accompanying comments showed.

● In certain categories, this years voting was again very close and the importance of having Major Festival/Tour and or media exposure, has become very apparent ... Not surprisingly then, some of the 'Evergreen' favourites are again amongst this year's Final Nominees, but many new names who have had lesser exposure, figured very prominently in Part 1 of the balloted returns ... Obviously not all of them made the final poll, but they received enough support to reflect that CMRU's readership has become very broad-based and is clearly open to new influences ... something that record companies, tour promoters and artistes alike should find very encouraging ... remembering of course, a closed mind, means a closed scene and one which will ultimately fade and die!!!

● Among the U.K. Radio Stations, it seems almost all the Country Music Show D.J.'s have impressive followings. In fact the general popularity is such, that our initial poll provided us with a problem. Filling the first five-places were straight forward enough, but we then had three all gathering the same support. So, we have chosen to let our Media Panel decide from eight station 'random monitoring' tapes, instead of six.

● Our (5 person) panel of professionals, will each be asked to listen to all the 30 min. duration tapes and award marks out of ten, for overall presentation, general entertainment and interest value, plus Local, National and International newsworthiness ... In short to find the DJ whose programme will hold the attention of the general public as well as the prior committed Country Fan.

The Country Radio D.J. of 1987 will be the presenter who scores the highest number of marks out of 50.

● For Part 2 of the ballot, we have given over a full page to the voting form ... listing acts (6 in each category), who have polled votes in the 1st Ballot.

... Now can we ask you to recognise the democratically Chosen Nominees and ask you to select just one Act in each sector. Again the sole criteria for your choice is the same as in part one, you pick, or support, the act you like most, even if your own original choice isn't listed among the Final Nominees.

● The closing date for your Part 2 entry (to be counted) in the Country Music Round Up International Awards, is July 31st 1987.

The "Most Popular" Artistes will be announced in categories at the Awards ceremony on the International Country Music Awards Show, at the Peterborough Festival, on the August Bank Holiday Monday.

● The Awards presentation will be the centre-piece attraction on the final show, featuring Steve Wariner, Southern Pacific and world renowned Super, Star, Kris Kristofferson.

PETERBOROUGH

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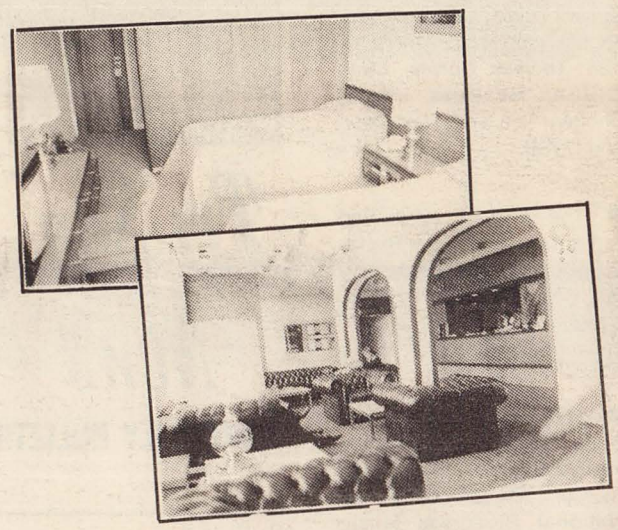

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COUNTRY MUSIC ROUND UP PUBLISHING CO.

NANCI GRIFFITH
THE NEW QUEEN
– PROFILE / REVIEW.

If Abe Lincoln's eloquent ' of the people. by the people. for the people' dissertation were readdressed to music. it would provide a perfect description for Nanci Griffith's absorbing folk rooted country songs. A gifted writer. Nanci's concise. yet thorough. penmanship – redolent of America's finest literary folklorists – offers lucid glimpses of real–life situations and scenarios inhabited by thoroughly believable characters.

'They're believable because they are real characters'. says Nanci. 'though they might not be just one person. Sometimes. they're a whole bunch of people put together. Character songs are my favourite songs to write. observing people and capturing them for what they are. I think Nanci Griffith is a little piece of most of the characters in my songs'.

Certainly those characters encountered during ten–years dues paying in local clubs and dives. commencing in her early teens. had a strong influence on the Austin. Texas born singer / songwriter and her music. But. being under age. those first–hand experiences which provided a basis for her remarkable talent could have been nipped in the bud had it not been for the co–operation of her parents.

'My Mom and Dad were so supportive of me and my music. they used to take me and stay with me in the bars'. she recalls. 'They were real involved with music and theatre. and they passed that on to me'.

Nanci studied at the University of Texas with brief aspirations of becoming a teacher. but her first love resurfaced and she returned to the rounds of barrooms and folk festivals. Her first recorded efforts appeared

in 1977. three tracks on a folk sampler released by B.F. Deal Records. who also put out her debut album. 'There's A Light Beyond These Woods'. which was later reissued by Featherbed.

A second album. 'Poet In My Window' (Featherbed). was cut in Kerville. Texas. then Nanci uprooted to Nashville. where she recorded two albums for Rounder / Philo (who had also re–released all her previous LPs). The first. 'Once In A Very Blue Moon' (from 1985). gets a UK release later in the year by Demon on the Rounder Europa Label. the second has just been released here...

LAST OF THE TRUE BELIEVERS
Rounder Europe REU 1013

Recorded at Jack Clement's Cowboy Arms Hotel & Recording Spa in October 1985 and released in the US last year. this extraordinarily beautiful set. co–produced by Griffith and Jim Rooney. is wholly delightful. Lyle Lovett. Rachel Peer Prine. Curtis Allen and Richard Dobson are just a few of the names providing harmonies for Nanci's pure. unadulterated vocals as she immaculately glides through eleven finely crafted life studies. Each song is a self–contained globule extracted from the stream of life. focusing on constantly recurring themes of love. dreams and lonely. misplaced people longing for home.

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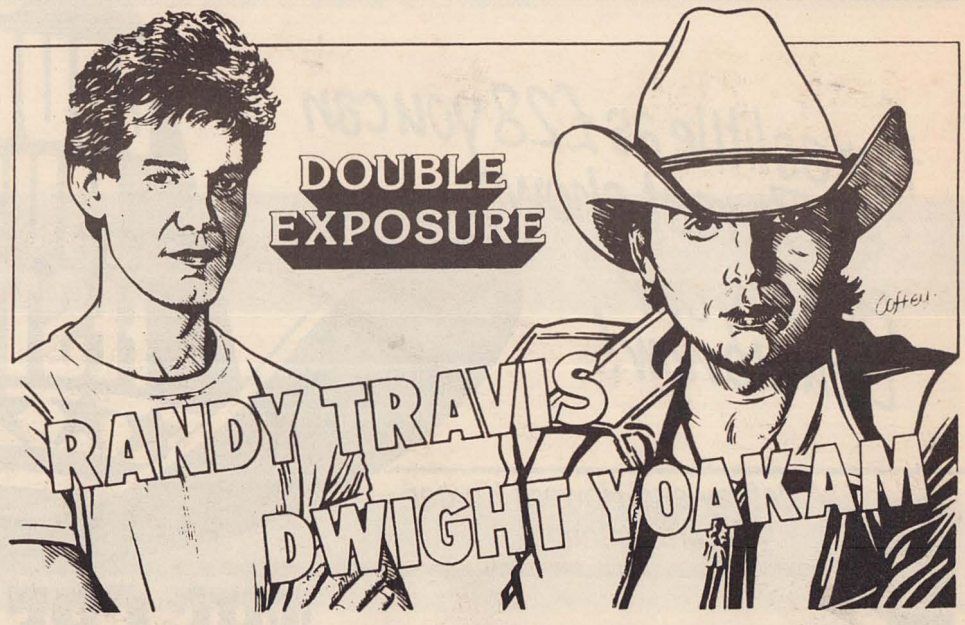

'New Country' is currently gaining double exposure from WEA Records, with virtually simultaneous releases by Randy Travis and Dwight Yoakam.

Although both are considered leading lights of the new traditionalist school. Travis and Yoakam are poles apart in their approach to music. The contrast in their styles is easily distinguishable on the new albums ... Pete Coffey.

Randy Travis
Always & Forever
Warner Brothers WX 107

Too Gone Too Long; My House; Good Intentions; What'll You Do About Me; I Won't Need You Anymore; Forever and Ever, Amen; I Told You So; Anything; The Truth is Lyin' Next To You; Tonight We're Gonna Tear Down The Walls.

Travis' image is one of clean cut, middle class conformity. Although he may be prone to frequent Bar Rooms and slip into the occasional cheatin' situation, home and family are of uppermost importance in the end. He may have faults, but is basically a well intentioned, all round good guy.

His voice is gentle, verging on easy listening, relying on character rather than excitement. The songs, too, are mostly laid back and their lyrics, although often adding new twists to old themes, rarely deviate from what has become accepted as a country music norm. Stereotyped, but sometimes cleverly so!

It would seem Randy is less intent on writing songs than on singing them, as his pen is only accountable for one full track and two collaborations. Maybe, with his acumen for well turned phrases, he should be encouraged to write more, rather than interpreting the lyrics of others. In the meantime, however, employing the songs of Dennis Linde, Troy Seals, Max D. Barnes and Don Schlitz can hardly be harmful.

If Travis is a traditionalist, it is more in a honky tonk sense than the truer definition and his influences only seem to stretch back as far as George Jones or Merle Haggard, (Lefty Frizzell at a pinch). That is not criticism, merely a statement of fact and, while gravitating just a little too close for comfort to the "Nashville Sound' in places, there is a generally pleasant air about this album although less impressive than his debut, 'Storms Of Life' in my opinion.

Dwight Yoakam
Hillbilly Deluxe
Reprise WX 106

Little Ways; Smoke Along The Track; Johnson's; Please, Please Baby; Readin', Rightin' RT. 23; Always Late With Your Kisses; 1,000 Miles; Throughout All Time; Little Sister; This Drinkin' Will Kill Me.

Unlike Travis's image created to suit the song, Yoakam's like his songs, in an apparently uncontrived extension of his true personality. He really seems to be the moody looking rebel with extremist opinions and lack of will to conform. He, too has faults, but I doubt would never admit them.

His modus operandi is attack, make a song go where he takes it, yet retain the essence it was born with, which, as most of them are self-penned, he always manages to achieve. Yoakam automatically creates excitement, and it has the quality of sounding spontaneous, but he can be gentle too. Then, he has a strength of character that can be subtle and sentimental, without ever cloying. Yoakam handles rockabilly, hillbilly, honky tonk and Bar Room ballads with equal consummate mastery. His own songs may step over some of lifes familiar ground, but there is nothing stereotyped about them and the seven self-penned works on 'Hillbilly DeLuxe' are an object lesson in writing. Even the three reasonably familiar non-Yoakam inclusions have been bent and re-shaped to suit his will which, if covers are attempted, is the only honest way to do it.

There can be no doubt that Dwight Yoakam is a traditionalist who strips music to its roots, adds his own innovation in the rebuild and brings it crashing back to the present. Yoakam shows little evidence of pandering to commercialism, yet he has proven to be commercial, and his already well upholstered confidence is even greater here than on his essential debut album. If DeLuxe means magnificent, I have no quarrel with the title!

● In summation, it is fair to say that Randy Travis has already established his popularity and standing as a major country star, but is unlikely to make any wider market. Therefore, knowing his limitations, he is treading safely.

Dwight Yoakam, on the other hand, has shown he can reach pop and rock as well as country audiences, at least in the UK, where his album is riding the national charts. I doubt Yoakam would tread safe even if he could, but his ability to communicate with so many different people shows that, by retaining his musical ideals, he's currently got it right.

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IT'S GREEN IN THE COUNTRY

● There's an old saying about "The best laid plans of mice and men", certainly many of the plans and arrangements I had made over the past six month have been ruined, firstly by three major ear operations, then Extra Work commitments meant a sheer "Lack of Time", so to all those who I had to let down at the last minute I do apologise,

(and it's quite a long list):

The Editors of this and, two other publications I was going to cover America for; The organisers of the San Antonio for missing their January festival; Kelly and Lore (of Lore and the Legends) for missing their May wedding; Alabama for missing their '87 Jam, (I have stuck their "Privileged Parking Sticker" on my wall);

Dolly for not getting to Dollywood as arranged; The CMA and all the Record Companys for failing to take up their offers at Fan Fair; to Butlins and Pontins Festival organisers for failing to turn up. There that's the bad news (not just a name dropping exercise) just a few of the commitments I failed to keep ...

The good news as far as I'm concerned is that the surgeons are gradually getting my hearing right again (this will no doubt please some acts) although I still need one more operation. One act I will get to see in the next few weeks is Joe Sun, maybe he will sing 'Ready For The Times To Get Better' telling it like it really is!

I DID COVER ...

● One of the highlights of the year for me so far was the "Ned Porridge" Reunion at the Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone. I always felt that the band played some of the best country music that ever came from South-East England and the fact that the theatre was virtually full some seven years after they last played there and, it's several years since the group disbanded shows that many fans felt the same way.

To be fair, Ned Porridge were really three separate bands because they changed line-ups three distinct times, only front-man Ed Pearson remaining constant, but the one thing the show proved to me was the quality they retained through all the line-ups.

The concert opened with Spellbound the band Pearson currently fronts. Over the past two years I have seen this band improving all the time. One of the nice things is they include old favourites but have plenty of other songs to keep the interest and have four lead vocalists offering plenty of variety although I was told afterwards that Tony Caldwell is leaving the group because they "have too much work" for him to undertake. The set they presented showed why they get that much work.

● The first and second Porridge bands had Clive Lawrence on lead guitar and vocals. Now a solo act under the name Clive Dixon he included one self-penned song in the short collection of popular favourites before being followed on stage by another solo spot from Sandy Porridge ... Sandy is too busy being a mum and a housewife now to spend much time with country music, in fact, she even had to borrow a guitar, "The baby had ruined hers". She used to be featured in a special spot with the band and her voice is better than ever. Joined on stage by husband John Paine on mandolin and the simple acoustic music, their lovely harmonies were an excellent example of the new "traditionalist" style of country in America, offered by The O'Kanes, Judds, etc. It will be a crime if this husband and wife duo do not develop their act further!! The final quarter of an hour saw all the former Porridge musicians on stage together, this even featured two drummers. They finally closed with "Your My Best Friend" and "We'll Meet Again" ... and they will because another reunion is planned for Christmas. Believe you me, this show will be sold out well in advance because Ned Porridge are still the finest band to come from the south-east as far as a lot of people are concerned.

MAKING A MEAL OF COUNTRY

● I still get the occasional phone call from people who say they are coming to London and asking where they can see some country music. The answer, of course, varies on what part of London and when you are there but the break For The Border Mexican restaurant in Charing Cross Road (near Foyles Bookshop) features live country music virtually every night from about 9 pm onwards.

Obviously it can be an expensive night if you go through the card and drink a lot but it can also be very reasonable with a huge hamburger and all the trimmings for around £3. The portions are big and the types of bands featured varies a lot from popular club bands like Spellbound to some of the new young country bands that are springing up on the alternative country scene.

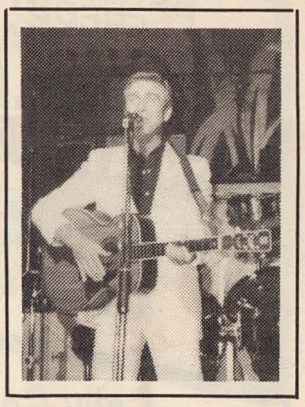
I can only report that we had a good evening there, enjoying the food and the music and quite a lot of the record labels are using it for their Press launch's. So if you're in London and looking for country music and Mexican food you could give it a try!

SAYING GOODBYE TO TEX

● One of the things I found suprisingly when I spoke to fans after hearing of the death of Tex Withers is that so few of them actually saw him work, so I think I better explain that "Tex" was probably, (if not physically), the best known British country music Act in the early '70s, when he toured with major American acts and even played the Grand Ol' Opry which is those days was really an achievement.

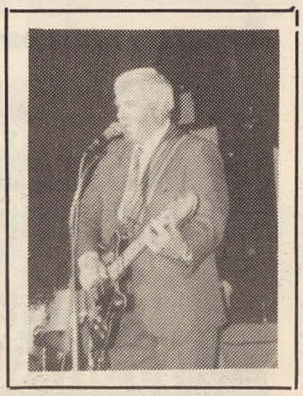
He always suffered with his health physically and emotionally and I suppose it must be around ten years since he worked regularly but even so anyone who was a regular country fan in those days will remember this slightly built man with his large cowboy hat. Unfortunately not enough of those people turned up early at the Benefit Night held at the National Ballroom, Kilburn, at the end of May, and one of them that nearly wasn't let in was Wally Whyton who had come straight from BBC Radio 2's Country Club and was refused entrance because he was wearing jeans! This was a bit awkward as he was the show's compere!

The first act on The Stewart Brothers had the hard job of working to virtually empty hall but gradually during their set the place got fuller and their straight country music set was well appreciated. A lot of noise has been made about Firewater lately and Firewater came on stage and made a lot of noise. I mean they were loud. I think the drummer is superb as a drummer and as a singer has much potential. The rest of the band did little for me although obviously they enjoy themselves ... They stayed on



stage to back Lorne Gibson who made sure he gave the dancing audience exactly what they wanted.

As the pubs emptied, the place filled up and when top-of-the-bill



Big Tom and his Irish Showband took the stage, the dancers took to the floor and packed it until his last number.

Thanks to the late surge of people and probably the biggest raffle I've seen at a country event I just hope that the evening was a financial success for Tex's dependants.

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COLORADO
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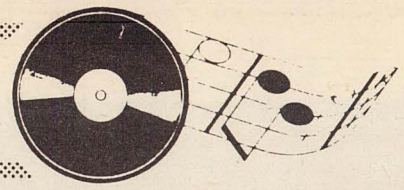
UPDATE



GALLUP — Charting the Eighties

Reproduced Courtesy Of Billboard Publications Inc.

Compiled from a national sample of retail store and one-stop sales reports.

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WKS. AGO	WKS. ON CHART	ARTIST / LABEL & NUMBER · DISTRIBUTING LABEL (SUG. LIST PRICE)*	TITLE
				★★ NO. 1 ★★	
(1)	3	4	4	**RANDY TRAVIS** ● WARNER BROS. 25568-1 (8.98) (CD) 1 week at No. One	ALWAYS & FOREVER
2	1	1	6	**DWIGHT YOAKAM** REPRISE 25567-1 WARNER BROS. (8.98) (CD)	HILLBILLY DELUXE
3	2	2	13	**EMMYLOU HARRIS, DOLLY PARTON, LINDA RONSTADT** ● WARNER BROS. 1-25491 (9.98) (CD)	TRIO
4	4	3	19	**GEORGE STRAIT** ● MCA 5913 (8.98) (CD)	OCEAN FRONT PROPERTY
5	5	5	28	**RESTLESS HEART** RCA 5648 (8.98) (CD)	WHEELS
6	6	6	17	**THE JUDDS** ● RCA CURB 5916-1 RCA (8.98) (CD)	HEART LAND
7	7	7	52	**RANDY TRAVIS** ▲ WARNER BROS. 1-25435 (8.98) (CD)	STORMS OF LIFE
8	8	8	19	**HANK WILLIAMS, JR.** WARNER CURB 1-25538 WARNER BROS. (8.98) (CD)	HANK "LIVE"
(9)	12	14	6	**REBA MCENTIRE** MCA 5979 (8.98) (CD)	GREATEST HITS
10	10	10	44	**SWEETHEARTS OF THE RODEO** COLUMBIA 40406	SWEETHEARTS OF THE RODEO
11	11	11	62	**DWIGHT YOAKAM** ● REPRISE 25372 WARNER BROS. (8.98) (CD)	GUITARS, CADILLACS, ETC., ETC.
12	9	9	30	**THE O'KANES** COLUMBIA BL 40459	THE O'KANES
13	13	12	33	**GEORGE JONES** EPIC 40413	WINE COLORED ROSES
14	14	13	35	**ALABAMA** ▲ RCA 5649-1-R (8.98) (CD)	THE TOUCH
15	15	15	31	**KATHY MATTEA** MERCURY 830 405-1 POLYGRAM (CD)	WALK THE WAY THE WIND BLOWS
(16)	18	20	15	**MOE BANDY** MCA CURB 5914 MCA (8.98)	YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THE LAST OF ME
17	17	17	12	**ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL** EPIC 40681	ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL
18	16	16	12	**JOHN CONLEE** COLUMBIA 40442	AMERICAN FACES
19	21	28	4	**CHARLEY PRIDE** 16TH AVENUE 70550 CAPITOL (8.98)	AFTER ALL THIS TIME
20	19	19	37	**LYLE LOVETT** MCA CURB 5748 MCA (8.98) (CD)	LYLE LOVETT
21	22	31	5	**ANNE MURRAY** CAPITOL 12562 (8.98) (CD)	HARMONY
22	23	23	15	**RICKY VAN SHELTON** COLUMBIA 40602	WILD EYED DREAM
23	27	24	69	**ALABAMA** ▲ RCA AHL1-7170 (8.98) (CD)	GREATEST HITS
24	26	27	22	**EDDY RAVEN** RCA 5728-1-R (8.98)	RIGHT HAND MAN
(25)	29	29	7	**NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND** WARNER BROS. 1-25573 (8.98) (CD)	HOLD ON
26	28	30	83	**THE JUDDS** ▲ RCA CURB AHL1-7042 RCA (8.98) (CD)	ROCKIN' WITH THE RHYTHM
27	20	21	16	**OAK RIDGE BOYS** MCA 5945 (8.98) (CD)	WHERE THE FAST LANE ENDS
28	30	25	35	**EARL THOMAS CONLEY** RCA 5619-1-R (8.98) (CD)	TOO MANY TIMES
29	24	18	35	**REBA MCENTIRE** ● MCA 5807 (8.98) (CD)	WHAT AM I GONNA DO ABOUT YOU
30	33	33	9	**CONWAY TWITTY** MCA 5969 (8.98) (CD)	BORDERLINE

◯ Albums with the greatest sales gains this week. (CD) Compact disk available. ● Recording Industry Assn. Of America (RIAA) certification for sales of 500,000 units. ▲ RIAA certification for sales of 1 million units, with each additional million indicated by a numeral following the symbol. *CBS Records and PolyGram Records do not issue a suggested list price for their product.

Compiled by Gallup from a weighted sample of 250 conventional outlets and 30 specialist shops for the Country Music Association © 1987

TOP SELLING SINGLES

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TITLE	ARTIST	HOT CTRY POSITION
1	1	**FOREVER AND EVER, AMEN**	RANDY TRAVIS	1
2	4	**ALL MY EX'S LIVE IN TEXAS**	GEORGE STRAIT	6
3	6	**IT'S ONLY OVER FOR YOU**	TANYA TUCKER	8
4	7	**LITTLE SISTER**	DWIGHT YOAKAM	7
5	9	**YOU'RE MY FIRST LADY**	T.G. SHEPPARD	2
6	8	**CHAINS OF GOLD**	SWEETHEARTS OF THE RODEO	5
7	3	**DOMESTIC LIFE**	JOHN CONLEE	50
8	2	**HAVE I GOT SOME BLUES FOR YOU**	CHARLEY PRIDE	43
9	5	**BABY'S GOT A HOLD ON ME**	NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND	13
10	14	**THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE**	EARL THOMAS CONLEY	4
11	11	**TIL' I'M TOO OLD TO DIE YOUNG**	MOE BANDY	22
12	12	**YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD FOR YOUNG LOVE**	EDDY RAVEN	3
13	16	**LOVE, YOU AIN'T SEEN THE LAST OF ME**	JOHN SCHNEIDER	9
14	19	**I KNOW WHERE I'M GOING**	THE JUDDS	11
15	18	**FULL GROWN FOOL**	MICKEY GILLEY	32
16	23	**ANOTHER WORLD**	CRYSTAL GAYLE AND GARY MORRIS	10
17	10	**JULIA**	CONWAY TWITTY	39
18	21	**CRIME OF PASSION**	RICKY VAN SHELTON	14
19	20	**WOULD JESUS WEAR A ROLEX**	RAY STEVENS	63
20	25	**LOVE CAN'T EVER GET BETTER THAN THIS**	R. SKAGGS/S. WHITE	21
21	15	**I WILL BE THERE**	DAN SEALS	30
22	17	**HARD LIVIN'**	KEITH WHITLEY	51
23	—	**AMERICAN ME**	S-K-O	16
24	13	**TOO MANY RIVERS**	THE FORESTER SISTERS	44
25	30	**LOVE SOMEONE LIKE ME**	HOLLY DUNN	15
26	—	**SNAP YOUR FINGERS**	RONNIE MILSAP	17
27	28	**FROM TIME TO TIME**	LARRY GATLIN & JANIE FRICKIE	25
28	—	**THE WEEKEND**	STEVE WARINER	12
29	—	**OH HEART**	BAILLIE AND THE BOYS	18
30	—	**COUNTRY RAP**	THE BELLAMY BROTHERS	41

A ranking of the top 30 country singles by sales with reference to each title's position on the main Hot Country Singles chart.

FOR WEEK ENDING JUNE 20, 1987

TOP • 20 • ALBUMS

20 June 1987

1	1	**HILLBILLY DELUXE** Dwight Yoakam	Reprise WX 106 (W) C: WX 106C/CD: 925 567-2
2	2	**TRIO** Dolly Parton/Linda Ronstadt/Emmylou Harris	Warner Brothers WX99 (W) C: WX99C CD: 925 491-2
3	6	**ALWAYS AND FOREVER** Randy Travis	King Jay/Warner Brothers WX 107 (W) C: WX 107C
4	3	**GIVE A LITTLE LOVE** The Judds	RCA PL 90011 (R) C: PK 90011/CD: PD 90011
5	8	**I NEED YOU** Daniel O'Donnell	Ritz RITZLP 0038 (SP) C: RITZLC 0038/CD: RITZCD 104
6	4	**GUITAR TOWN** Steve Earle	MCA MCF 3335 (F) C: MCFC 3335/CD: DMCF 3335
7	9	**GUITARS, CADILLACS, ETC. ETC.** Dwight Yoakam	Reprise 9253721 (W) C: 9253724/CD: 925 372-2
8	7	**SWEET DREAMS** Patsy Cline	MCA MCG 6003 (F) C: MCGC 6003/CD: MCAD 6149
9	12	**THEY DON'T MAKE THEM LIKE THEY USED TO** Kenny Rogers	RCA PL 85633; C: PK 85633/CD: PD 85633 (R)
10	16	**LONE STAR STATE OF MIND** Nanci Griffith	MCA MCF 3364 (F) C: MCFC 3364
11	5	**THIRTEEN** Emmylou Harris	Warner Brothers K 925 352-1 (W) C: 925 352-4
12	14	**MR ENTERTAINER** Johnny Russell	RCA NL 90000 (R) C: NK 90000
13	10	**LOVERS AND BEST FRIENDS** Don Williams	MCA MCF 3357 (F) C: MCFC 3357
14	RE	**NEW MOVES** Don Williams	Capitol EST2004 (E) C: TC EST 2004
15	17	**REPOSSESSED** Kris Kristofferson	Mercury/Phonogram MERH 103 (F) C: MERHC 103/CD: 830 406-2
16	13	**THE COUNTRY MAN** Charley Pride	RCA NL 89997 (R) C: NK 89997
17	NEW	**HANGIN' TOUGH** Waylon Jennings	MCA MCF 3360 (F) C: MCFC 3360/CD: DMCF 3360
18	11	**STORMS OF LIFE** Randy Travis	Warner Bros 9254351 (W) C: 9254354/CD: 9254352
19	20	**LULLABYS LEGENDS AND LIES** Bobby Bare	RCA NL 89998 (R) C: NK 89998
20	NEW	**THE LAST TRAIN TO HEAVEN** Boxcar Willie	Spartan SPMP101 (SP) C: SPMC 101

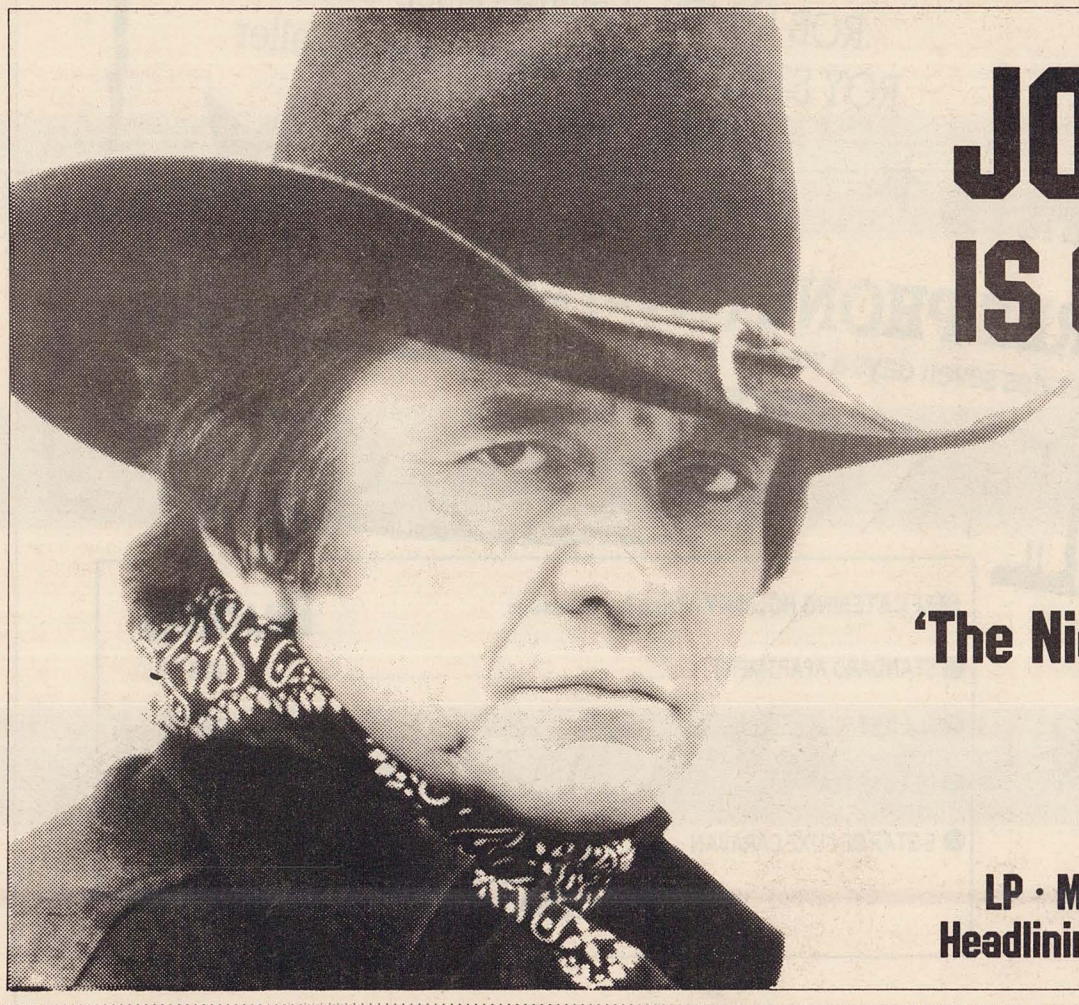
TOP 10 COMPILATIONS

1	1	ANNIVERSARY — 20 YEARS OF HITS Tammy Wynette	Epic 450393-1 (C)	6	— THE KENNY ROGERS COLLECTION Kenny Rogers Castle Collectors CCSLP 111 (R)
2	2	THE KENNY ROGERS STORY Kenny Rogers	Liberty EMTV 39 (E)	7	— THE VERY BEST OF DOLLY PARTON Dolly Parton RCA PL 89007 (R)
3	3	DOLLY PARTON'S GREATEST HITS Dolly Parton	RCA PL 84422 (R)	8	— GREATEST HITS (CD only) Kenny Rogers EMI CDP 7460042 (E)
4	6	THE COLLECTION Boxcar Willie	Castle Collector's Series CCSLP 159 (R)	9	8 THE VERY BEST OF DON WILLIAMS Don Williams MCA MCG 4014 (F)
5	7	THE GLEN CAMPBELL ALBUM Glen Campbell	K-tel NE 1341 (K)	10	5 MAGIC MOMENTS (Cassette Only) Jim Reeves RCA C:NK 89402 (R)

artiste: Johnny Cash
title: Johnny Cash Is Coming To Town
label: Mercury

When it was announced that Johnny Cash had severed his 30 year connection with CBS I heard the cynics say "Cash is finished. Now I'm not particularly a J.C. fan, in fact some of my remarks in the past have got me into trouble with certain readers, but I thought the "finished" remarks unjust and said so. I don't have to argue anymore, let Johnny's debut album for the Mercury label speak for itself. It states clearly "Big John is not an old man washed up, but a still maturing talent capable of musical regeneration". To emphasise this, the album opens with "The Big Light" penned by Elvis Costello, an excellent song that immediately set the tone for a really strong album. A pretty reworking of the broadside ballad "Barbara Allen" follows and a simple Cash love sonnet, "I'd Rather Have You". John does justice to Guy Clark's "Let Him Roll" before closing side one with a great tribute song "The Night Hank Williams Came To Town".

Side two opens with an interesting new arrangement of the Merle Travis classic "Sixteen Tons". "Letters From Home". is a beautiful " prodigal son" ballad, James Talley's "W. Lee O'Daniel" pays tribute to the Light Crust Dough Boys and "Heavy Metal" puts Guy Clark on the writers credits for the second time. Closing a really great album is Allen Reynolds' hymn "My Ship Will Sail", showcasing June Carter & The Carter Family who along with Waylon Jennings, provide vocal effects throughout. Johnny Cash all washed up? Brother, he's only just begun! Available on cassette and compact disc.



JOHNNY · CASH
IS COMING TO TOWN

A Classic New Album
includes
'The Night Hank Williams Came To Town'
and 'Sixteen Tons'

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Headlining at the Peterborough Festival – August 30th.

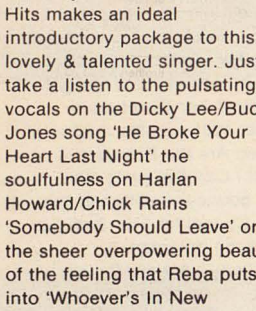
RECORD REVIEWS

artiste: Reba McEntire
title: Greatest Hits
label: MCA MCG 6026

Just A Little Love/He Broke Your Memory Last Night/How Blue/Somebody Should Leave/Have I Got A Deal For You/Only In My Mind/Whoever's In New England/Little Rock/What Am I Gonna Do About You/One Promise Too Late.

If Reba McEntire is relatively new to you then this Greatest Hits makes an ideal introductory package to this lovely & talented singer. Just take a listen to the pulsating vocals on the Dicky Lee/Bucky Jones song 'He Broke Your Heart Last Night' the soulfulness on Harlan Howard/Chick Rains 'Somebody Should Leave' or the sheer overpowering beauty of the feeling that Reba puts into 'Whoever's In New England'. Although Reba handles the up tempo numbers like 'Little Rock' & 'Have I Got A Deal For You' with style I must say that I prefer the more mellow side such as 'What Am I Gonna Do About You' which still sends shivers down my spine ten minutes after I've taken it off the turntable. Definately a package that should make you rush to your record dealer in an attempt to buy the five albums that these tracks are taken from.

Clive Wynes



artist: Ronnie Milsap
title: Spinning Wheel
label: Sundown

"Spinning Wheel" is not a country album - but don't let that deter you - please read on.

Ronnie Milsap is a country superstar in every sense of the word and interest in his early works has been pretty lively for the past decade. A decade ago the British label DJM issued a 16 tracker of Ronnie's 60s recordings. About the same time, the American label Buckboard followed a similar path by releasing 9 early Milsap songs. Obviously, with limited material, one or two songs were repeated, but this was no big deal to the collector.

"Spinning Wheel" also repeats three songs from these earlier albums, though here they seem to have a much cleaner sound. That leaves five tracks that, to the best of my knowledge, have not been re-issued before, certainly not in the U.K. As I said at the beginning, this is not a country album, but a collection of eight excellent tracks that admirable display Milsap's versatility and show there is much more to Ronnie than just a good ole country boy.

"Let's Go Get Stoned" is a standard rhythm & blues piece that made number one for Ron in 1966, "Didn't We" and "Traces" are super club jazz, "House Of The Rising Sun", a great folk/blues work, "I Can't Stop Crying" is a strong ballad, the kind Elvis was recording in the late seventies (incidentally, Milsap provides the harmony vocals on Presley's "Don't Cry Daddy" and "Kentucky Rain") and "Only One Woman" is the great soul classic.

An album that will be enjoyed by Milsap fans, country historians and middle of the road listeners. I think I'll play it again Sam.

Pete Smith.

artist: John Hartford
title: Annual Waltz
label: MCA

John Hartford has been variously described as a bluegrass picker, a folkie and a country musician. Really he's none of these, and yet, he's all of them. For in Hartford's music one finds elements of bluegrass, folk, country and traditional string band music. One thing that cannot be disputed is that Hartford is one immense talent. On "Annual Waltz" he wrote seven tunes, co-written (with Charles Cochran) another, and arranged yet another. He sings, picks fiddle and banjo - what more could one ask?.

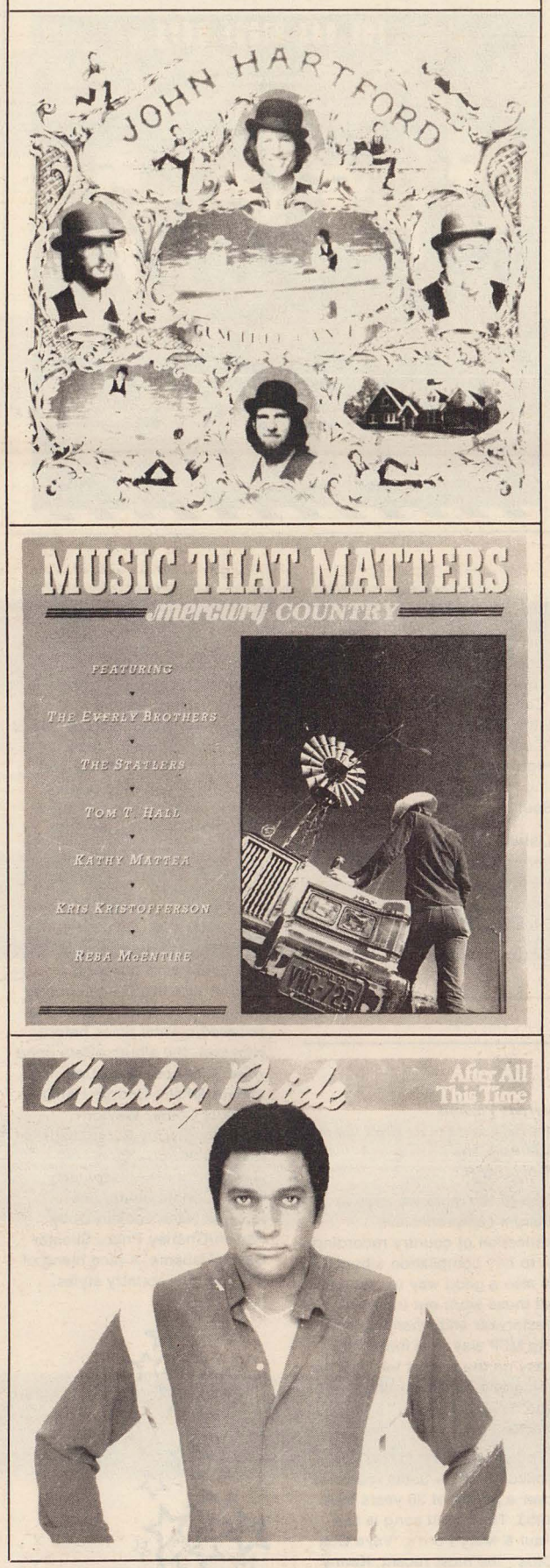
As a writer Hartford is very intelligent, blending thoughtful lyrics with simple tunes, without ever getting heavy. A perfect example of this is "Here's To Your Dreams" in which John hopes your dreams never entirely come true. A strange thing to wish someone, you may think, but as John explains, if all your dreams come true, you will no longer have anything to dream about and that would lead to a rather colourless life.

Supporting John on this marvellous album are the Hartford String Band, that is John Yudkin (fiddle, mandolin), Mark Howard (mandolin, guitar), Jack Clement (guitar), Roy Huskey Jr (bass), Kenny Malone (percussion) and Gary Janney (vocals).

artiste: John Hartford
title: Gum Tree Canoe
label: Sundown SDLP 030

Very much in a traditional mould with three John Hartford originals 'I'm Still Here', 'Way Down The River Road' & Jug Harris' alongside Doc Watson's 'Your Long Journey' & the Websters old civil war ballad 'Lorena'. 'Wrong Road Again' a song better associated with Crystal Gayle is given a traditional sound while even more surprisingly so is the Jagger/Richards composition 'No Expectations'. All in all a very pleasant album but for me no really outstanding tracks.

Clive Wynes



Steve Wariner
It's A Crazy World
MCA MCF 3363

Steve takes co-writers credits on four of the tracks 'There's Always A First Time', 'When It Rains', 'Fastbreak' & my album pick the poignant 'Why Do Heroes Die So Young'. The two Dave Loggins songs 'If I Could Make A Livin' & the bouncy 'Hey Alarm Clock' are also well worth a mention as is another groover 'Lynda'.

Although Steve Wariner has been making quite a name for himself back home in the USA so far he has had little impact this side of the big pond, & I don't really see this album doing all that much to change this leastways not before his Peterborough Festival appearance.

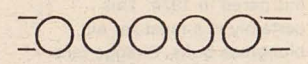
Among the modern "New Country" heavyweight names found doing backing vocals are Vince Gill, Dave Loggins, Russel Smith & J D Martin. One other point in Steve's favour unlike some of the other younger singers around his vocals are crystal clear ... there's no straining here to catch the words, It's A Crazy World is well worth a listen ... but it's not Wariner's best.

Clive Wynes

artiste: Charley Pride
title: After All This Time
label: Ritz

"After All This Time" was produced by Ray Baker, the man, who with Moe Bandy, turned out so many excellent records, and the session pickers are amongst Nashville's finest.

The songs, with one exception, are new to me and come from the pens of new and established writers; David Chamberlain, Kent Robbins, Johnny Russell, Dickey Lee, Tommy Collins, etc. The exception is "On The Other Hand", the hit song from Randy Travis' "Storms Of Life" album, but even this is different in the emotional emphasis Charley puts on the ballad.
I've missed Charley's warm and easy style. Two years away from the studios have not harmed Pride any, in fact he seems a little sharper these days.



artiste: Johnny Paycheck
title: Honky Tonk & Slow Music
label: Sundown

Johnny Paycheck is perhaps the definitive country outlaw. During his career he's made a couple of fortunes - and spent them - he's fought the bottle, he's fought the law and is currently facing a hefty jail term for firearms offences. In short, he's a good ole boy.

This rebellious attitude to life is still reflected in his music today, but not more than when he cut those "far ahead of his time" tracks for Little Darlin' ... and it's ten songs from that period that are on "Honky Tonk & Slow Music".

You will find Johnny in his bittersweet mood - the world has treated me badly, so what, type of attitude, beautifully portrayed by the songs "I'm A Coward", "Nowhere To Run" and "Make Me One More Memory".

This, for me, is Johnny Paycheck at his very best musically no compromising honky tonk.

Pete Smith

THE WORDS THAT GO WITH THE MUSIC ..

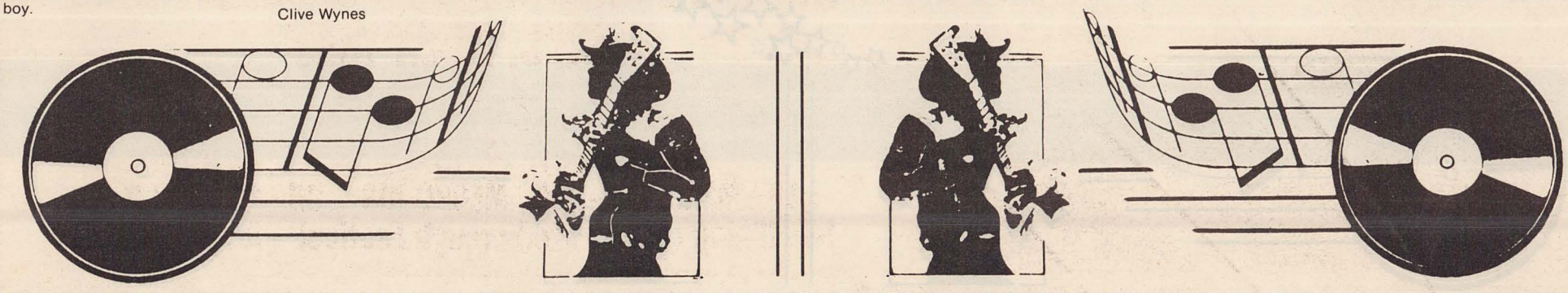
artiste: Music That Matters
title: Various Artistes Country Compilation
label: Mercury Country. LP

Side One: Kathy Mattea: Walk the way the Wind Blows. Tom T Hall: Down at the Mall. Maines Brothers Band: Everyone needs love on a Saturday Night. Butch Baker: Thats What Her Memory Is For. Donna Fargo: Winners. Kris Kristofferson: Love is the Way. Glenn Sutton: I'll Go Steppin Too .... Side Two: The Statlers: Amazing Grace. Reba McEntire: Waitin for the Sun to Shine. Johnny Paycheck: Old Violin. The Cannons: Do you Mind If I Step Into Your Dreams. Larry Boone: She's The Trip That I've Been On. The Everly Brothers: These Shoes. Tari Hensley: Hard Baby To Rock ....

This 14 track various country artists compilation is the first of its type to be issued by Mercury Records in Britain for over a decade. Mercury are currently re establishing itself as a major country music force within the recording industry with a roster of established and new country acts and this album features some of these artists recent U.S. chart singles.

I am not over impressed with the albums sleeve front cover, it's a bit too redneck hick for me and could easily be bypassed as trivia in the record racks. The back cover is however a gem with detailed sleeve notes by Tony Byworth who incidentally compiled the album ... The album gives a valued insight to American country music of today and in some cases tomorrow. There's not one duff track on it, in fact I predict that many of our British acts will be gleaning covers from this album over the next few months ... With 14 good tracks and priced in the mid price range, it's well worth looking up and buying because it's MUSIC THAT MATTERS ...

Brian Ahern



RECORD REVIEWS

BY PETE SMITH

artiste: Oak Ridge Boys
title: Where The Fast Lane Ends
label: MCA

Something of a milestone album for the "Oaks". It's the last one to feature William Lee Golden, a twenty year veteran with the group, and the first one to feature the boys' new producer, Jimmy Bowen. But do changes enhance the product? It's far too early to see what effect Golden's departure will have, but the change of producer has definitely improved this album. I say this with due respect to Ron Chancery (a most able producer), but he'd been with the boys for something like 15 years and, with the best possible will in the world, you know what they say about familiarity.

I thought the "Oaks" album, "Seasons", a powerful work, though I was not totally happy with the country content. "Where The Fast Lane Ends" corrects this. It maintains a lot of power, has enough country feel to please the fans, and still retains a great crossover potential. Jimmy Bowen has achieved a great deal on his first outing with the boys.

I'm not going to detail all the songs on this album, no words I could write could possibly do justice, but I will just mention one track, "Rainbow At Midnight", which features the guitar of "Smokey" Joe Walsh, and the tremendous vocal power of Patti Labelle. What a blockbuster!

Pete Smith

---

artiste: Classic Tom T Hall
title: A Collection Of His Finest Songs
label: Mercury Records. LP

Side One: I Washed My Face In The Morning Dew. Ballad Of Forty Dollars. Homecoming. A Week In A Country Jail. Salute To A Switchblade. The Year That Clayton Delaney Died. Me And Jesus. Old Dogs Children And Watermelon Wine ..... Side Two: Ravishing Ruby. I Love. That Song Is Driving Me Crazy. Country Is. Faster Horses (The Cowboy and the Poet). Your Man Loves You, Honey. Fox On The Run. P.S. I Love You .....

Tom T Hall songs are not just country songs, they are recorded testimony of modern life within a working class famework. Whenever I hear a Tom T song I can guarantee that it evokes memories of part of my life, I knew most of the people that he sings about, Clayton Delaney was a friend of mine, I have been inspired by the wisdom of an old guy in a hotel lounge ... I know Ravishing Ruby. Not exactly the same people that Tom T writes about but only the names have changed, the story is the same.

Avid Tom T Hall fans will probably have most of the tracks on this album in their collection but I feel sure that they will want to add this album & those who are new to country music record collecting or even country music, should persue a copy because this is country story telling at its best from the Mark Twain of country music ...

Brian Ahern

---

artiste: Keith Whitley & Ricky Skaggs
title: Second Generation Bluegrass
label: Sundown

I believe that the title of this one is very misleading. Recorded in June, 1971, this couldn't possibly have been a Whitley/Skaggs album, for the twosome were still then part of Ralph Stanleys Clinch Mountain Boys. Ralph himself picks banjo with Roy Lee Centers (guitar), Curly Ray Cline (fiddle) and Jackie Cooke (bass). It is therefore a Clinch Mountain Boys record. That established, this couldn't possibly be "Second Generation Bluegrass", but first generation

... Then that said, Keith Whitley (guitar) and Ricky Skaggs (mandolin, fiddle) handle all the vocals and a good deal of the instrumental solos so I suppose there is some justice in giving these guys the major credit ... but let's keep it straight.

The music is excellent with early versions of the Skaggs' hits "Don't Cheat In Our Hometown" and "My Deceitful Heart", a cracking version of "Daybreak In Dixie" and the beautiful "Dream Of A Miner's Child". It is also a pleasure to hear once again "Poor Monroe", penned by guitarist Roy Lee Centers, who was murdered in 1974. This certainly is a must for all bluegrass buffs, Skaggs fans and lovers of traditional music.

– □□□□□□ –

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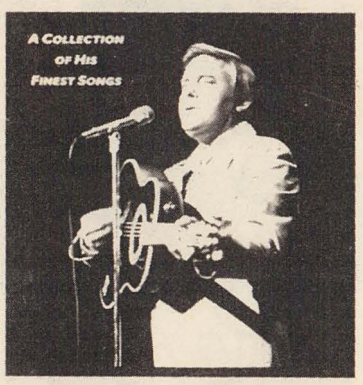
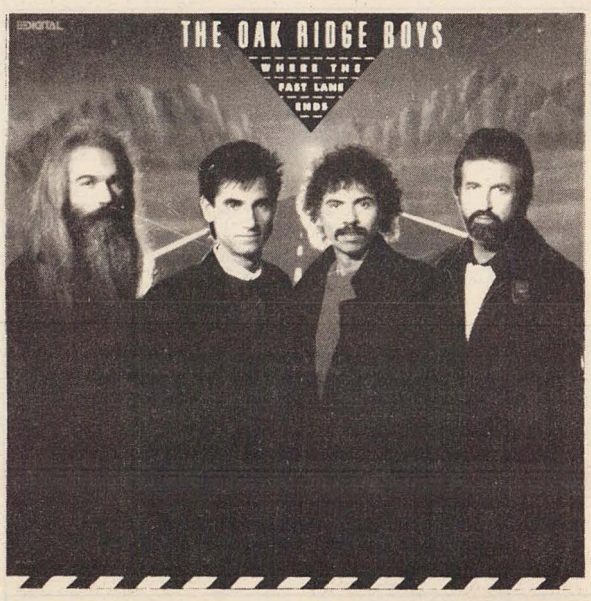
artist: George Hamilton IV
title: George Hamilton IV
label: MFP

George Hamilton IV, the "International Ambassador Of Country Music", was presented with the Hubert Long Award for services to country music during the Silk Cut Festival over Easter, and quite rightly so. George has done more than any other to promote country in U.K. As if to celebrate this occasion. MFP have released a

CLASSIC TOM T·HALL





14 track compilation that could quite easily be called "Hamilton Favourites" for these songs are certainly George's most requested. Songs like "Canadian Pacific", "She's A Little Bit Country", "Countryfied", "West Texas Highway", "Back Where It's At" and "Country Music In My Soul".

Listening to these tracks it's hard to believe that some of them date back almost twenty years, they sound so fresh. Great value for money.

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artist: Various
titles: Together Again/This is Country Music
label: MFP

One of the quickest ways to build a comprehensive collection of country recordings is to buy compilation albums. It is also a good way to replace all those worn out tracks of yesteryear and when you do it the MFP way, it is incredibly easy on the pocket too. For the price of a couple of singles, you can have from 14 to 16 full tracks!

"Together Again" (5771) is a collection of 14 duets recorded over a period of 30 years from 1953. The oldest song is Les Paul & Mary Ford's "Vaya Con Dios", the most recent, Kenny Rogers & Sheena Easton's "We've Got Tonight", and in-between there's Glen Campbell with Bobbie Gentry, Anne Murray, Rita Coolidge and Tanya Tucker, Melba Montgomery with George Jones and Charlie Louvin, Jean Shepard with Ray Pillow and Ferlin Husky, Kenny Rogers with Kim Carnes and Dottie West, Del Reeves with Billie Jo Spears and my particular favourite, Willie Nelson & Shirley Collie.

"This Is Country Music" (5786) offers 16 tracks covering a quarter of a century of country hits, many of which have been released several times before. However, the album offers good value with nothing but top drawer artists; George Hamilton IV/Jessi Colter/ Waylon Jennings/Bobby Bare/Charlie Rich/Hank Snow/Don Gibson/Ronnie Milsap/Jerry Reed/ Connie Smith/Jim Reeves/ Hank Locklin/Dolly Parton/Charley Pride/ Skeeter Davis/Alabama. A nice blend of old and new country styles.

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J & E RECORDS

COMPACT DISC REVIEW

Clive Wynes

Anne Murray
Anne Murray's Country Hits
Capitol CDP 7 46487 2

Cotton Jenny/He Thinks I Still Care/Son Of A Rotten Gambler/Walk Right Back/Lucky Me/Blessed Are The Believers/It's All I Can Do/Another Sleepless Night/Hey Baby/Someone's Always Saying Goodbye/A Little Good News/Just Another Woman In Love/Nobody Loves Me Like You Do/Time Don't Run Out On Me/I Don't Think I'm Ready For You.

Nova Scotia born Anne Murray has in recent years been directed away from the country singer tag but as this string of chart hits testifies she's country through & through. With the exception of 'Snowbird' all of Anne's biggest sellers are here on this superb 15 tracker.

From the early folksy/country sound of her 1972 hit 'Cotton Jenny' and the driving Sonny Curtis number 'Walk Right Back' (also a hit for the Everley Bros) in 1978, then there's the 1980 successful ballad number 'Lucky Me'. As the years have rolled by Annes voice has got stronger & her songs more intense. 1981 saw the release of 'Blessed Are the Believers' & 'It's All I Can Do' while 1982 saw a bouncy rendition of the Bruce Chanel hit 'Hey Baby' as well as the poignant 'Somebody's Always Saying Goodbye'. By 1983 the folksy Anne Murray had given way to a gutsy lady singer & a Grammy award for 'A Little Good News', 1984 saw a sentimental Anne with 'Just Another Woman In Love'. Dave Loggins joined her in that same vein on 'Nobody Loves Me Like You Do' while 1985 saw 'Time Don't Run Out On Me' & the moving 'I Don't Think I'm Ready For You'. Yes ... Anne Murrays Country Hits is simply superb.

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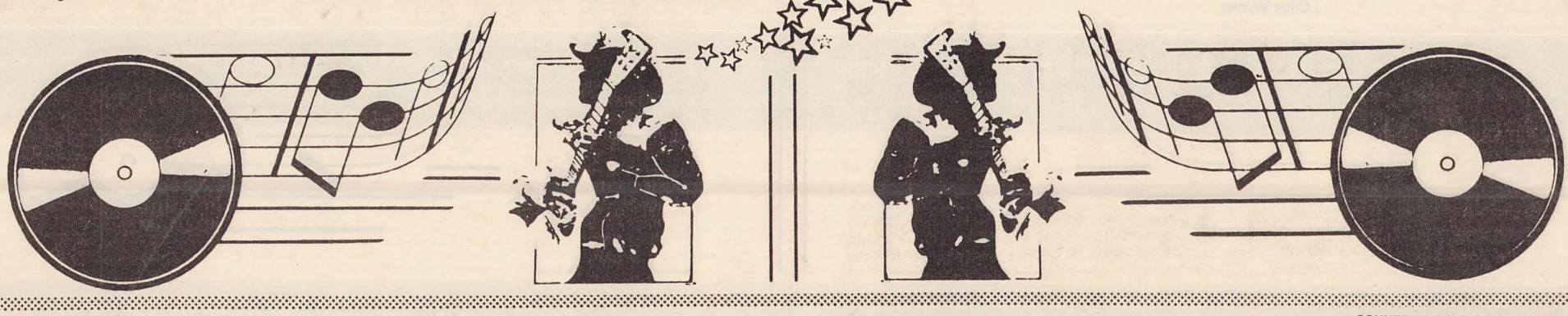

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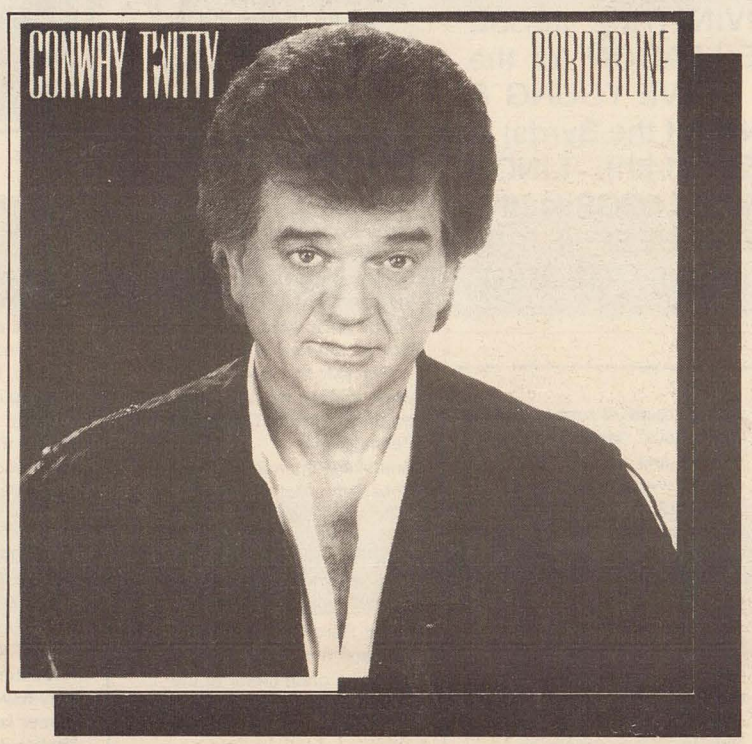


CONWAY TWITTY: *BORDERLINE*

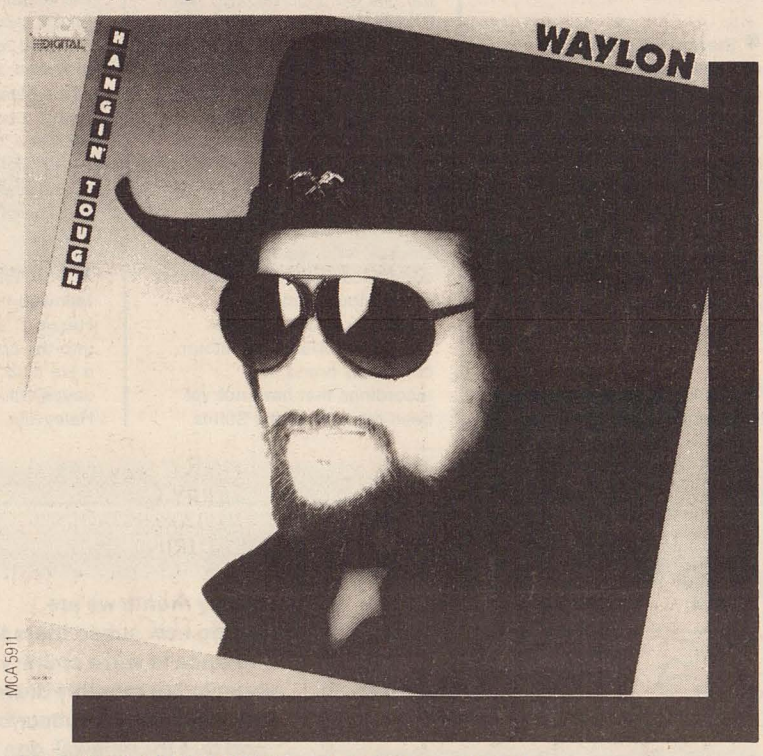
SIDE ONE
- *Julia*
- *Lonely Town*
- *I want to know you before we make love*
- *Borderline*
- *Not enough love to go 'round*

SIDE TWO
- *Snake boots*
- *I'm for awhile*
- *Fifteen to forty-three*
- *Everybody needs a hero*
- *That's my job*

THE OAK RIDGE BOYS: *WHERE THE FAST LANE ENDS*

SIDE ONE
- *This crazy love*
- *A little love can go a long, long way*
- *Whatever it takes*
- *Love has a mind of its own*
- *Is this any way for us to say goodbye*

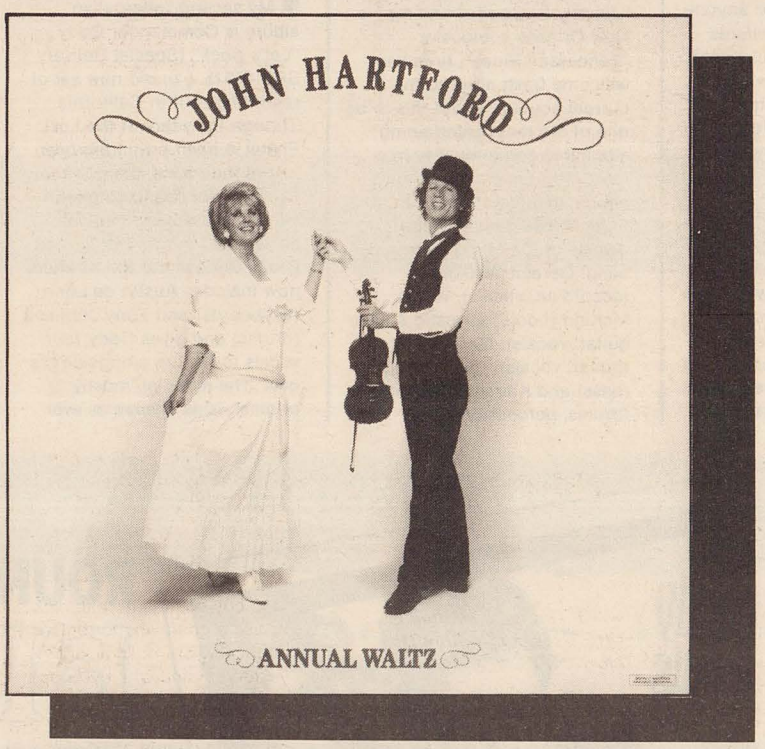
SIDE TWO
- *Where the fast lane ends*
- *It takes a little rain (to make love grow)*
- *Looking for love*
- *A little late to say goodbye*
- *Rainbow at midnight*



WAYLON JENNINGS: *HANGIN' TOUGH*

SIDE ONE
- *Baker Street*
- *I can't help the way I don't feel about you*
- *Rose in Paradise*
- *Crying don't even come close*
- *Chevy van*

SIDE TWO
- *Fallin' out*
- *Deep in the west*
- *Between fathers and sons*
- *The crown prince*
- *Defying gravity (executioner's song)*



JOHN HARTFORD: *ANNUAL WALTZ*

SIDE ONE
- *All in my love for you*
- *Ohio River rag*
- *Annual waltz*
- *Gone, gone, gone*
- *Love wrote this song*

SIDE TWO
- *Learning to smile all over again*
- *Pennington Bend*
- *Here's to your dreams*
- *Short life of trouble*
- *Living in the Mississippi Valley*

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COUNTRY ROCK PILE

BY PETE SMITH

● Over the years several U.S. artistes have successfully moved over from rock 'n' roll to country. Jerry Lee Lewis, Conway Twitty and Ed Bruce are just three, and in Britain star acts like Pinkertons Colours, Joe Brown and Ricky Valance instantly spring to mind. Recently another to make the move has been Barry Glynn, for many years, leader of much acclaimed rock band the Cadillacs, who enjoyed considerable success throughout the world. But it seems during recent years Barry's found his heart has been with country and a few months ago decided to make a full commitment. It is a long way from the stage of the Royal Albert Hall, the bars of Arizona and the clubroom of the USS Saratoga (all of which Glynn has played) to the small country music clubs of Britain. But this doesn't concern Barry, he's happy doing what he likes to do - entertain people with his kind of music - country. Already he has begun to build quite a following with his ultra-professional style, considerable talents and warm, friendly personality. So I shall follow his progress with some interest.

● It's good to see drummer Pete Robbins back with Pinkertons Colours after a two year sabbatical. One wonders when is this long established group going to lay down a few tracks? An album or cassette is long overdue. But watch out for their Live In Concert Video Album, extracted from CMRU's 5th House Party Easter Weekend filming. Firewater, another of Britain's busy outfits has been in the studios laying down some new songs. At this time I cannot reveal the details but I can tell you that you're going to be very pleasantly surprised.

● As an aside ... A subject of discussion recently can anyone tell me why Miners' Welfares don't stock draught Guinness? I've been to quite a few in my time and have always had to make do with the bottled variety? (The wittiest reply to this wins an album).

● Pete Haywood, long-time one of Britain's favourite and busiest steel guitar players, has not been seen on the road of late. This is because Pete now operates his own studio and his considerable talents are tying him down there. Pete recently worked on the debut cassette of Rotherham based singer/songwriter John Lowndes. The tape is titled "Five Of My Own" and features 50% original material.

Happy Birthday to all Cancer and Leo people, including:

JOHNNY LEE (3rd): RAY PILLOW (4th): MITCH JAYNE (of the Dillards) & BOBBY THOMPSON (5th): RIK ELSWIT (of Dr. Hook) & JEANNIE SEELY (6th): CHARLIE LOUVIN (7th): JESSE McREYNOLDS (of Jim & Jesse) & BERNIE LEADON (of the Eagles) (9th): COMMANDER CODY (11th): STEVE YOUNG & BUTCH HANCOCK (12th): ROGER McGUINN (of the Byrds) & LOUISE MANDRELL (13th): DEL REEVES (14th): LINDA RONSTADT (15th): DALLAS HARMS & RICKY SKAGGS (18th): GEORGE HAMILTON IV (19th): SLEEPY LA BEEF & T.G. SHEPPARD (20th): TONY JOE WHITE (23rd): GEORGE CUMMINGS (of Dr. Hook) (28th).

● "Alternative country" is a term I find almost indefinable as "country" itself. Maybe "alternative" means different to the Nashville norm, if so, here are a couple of "alternative" albums. First, "The Balham Alligators" (special Delivery SPD 1002) with it's infectious style of Zydeco/Cajun music encompassing tunes from across the country spectrum; "Little Liza Jane", from traditional sources, "Scotland", a bluegrass Bill Monroe favourite, the rockabilly "Johnny B. Goode" and the New Orleans soulbuster "Tennessee Blues", breathes welcome fresh air onto the current scene. I found this to be one of the most entertaining albums to come my way in a long, long time, a goodtime album, the like of which I thought had died with the demise of the Mungo Jerry band. Geraint Watkins (accordion, vocals), Robin McKidd (fiddle, acoustic & slide guitar, vocals), Gary Rickard (guitar, vocals), Pete Dennis (bass) and Keiran O'Connor (drums, percussion), collectively the Balham Alligators are one hell of a group of musicians who strut their stuff with the confidence of a fox in a chicken coup as beautifully portrayed on "Tacos" which at first listening sounds like a splendid Conjuto song, but subsequent listening proves it to be a magnificent hoax.

Track round up: Balham Two Step/Hey, Hey, Ho, Ho/Malheureuse/Sugar Bee/Oh Siobhan/Let's Dance (released as a single)/Leaving Louisiana In The Broad Daylight/Allons A Lafayette/Hobo Blues.

This really does deserve to be a massive success.

● My second "alternative" album is Commander Cody "Let's Rock" (Special Delivery SPD 1001), a brand new set of recordings cut in California. Though the years of the Lost Planet Airmen have long been lost in the ozone, the good Commander has lost none of his musical power. The new band, featuring former airmen Bruce Barlow and Bill Kirchen, now includes Austin de Lone (keyboards) and Tony Johnson (drums) and gives Cody four vocals to feature alongside his own. The material, mostly original, is as diverse as ever with a couple of rock 'n' rollers, "Let's Rock", ideal for a single release, and "Rockin' Over China", western swing with "Midnight On The Strand", featuring the excellent steel of Bobby Black, himself a former "Airman". There's "Do You Mind", a Coasters' type number, the swamp blues of "Angel Got Married", a standard country number, "One More Ride", rockabilly with "Home Of Rock & Roll" and four talkin' blues, a style that Cody excells as, "Truck Stop At The End Of The World", the western swing influenced, "Your Cash Ain't Nothin' But Trash", "Rockabilly Funeral" and "Transfusion". I've waited a long time for some new Commander Cody material but it's been worth it.

● Steve Sanders who for the past five years has been rhythm guitarist with the Oak Ridge Boys Band, is the replacement for William Lee Golden, who leaves the Oak Ridge Boys after twenty-two years. Sanders is a vastly experienced musician having performed Gospel as an infant, rock and roll as a teenager and rock as an adult. His past also includes acting and songwriting.

● Public demand it seems has encouraged MCA to release in Britain what are arguably George Strait's two most popular songs. "Does Fort Worth Ever Cross Your Mind" and "The Cowboy Rides Away" can now be obtained on the single MCA 1166. Meanwhile, Goerge's current album "Ocean Front Property" continues to be a big selling album and cassette ... and last months CMRU/MCA special readers offer made it even better!.

● Eddie Blackstone, the singer/songwriter from the Bristol area, has decided to re-release his great "The Light & Shade Of" (TW Records) album. Personally I'm very pleased for I missed this the first time around. During the early 80s there was a danger that Eddie would make the international scene in a big way but fate conspired to prevent him enjoying success similar to that experienced by Paul Kennerley. Certainly Eddie has the same talent. His songs of life follow the pattern of Tom T. Hall (not that Blackstone is an imitator. He's totally original if nothing else) and I thank Kelvin Henderson for introducing me to Blackstone's work some years ago. Now I can enjoy the originals of After Dark/1645 Pennsylvania Boulevard/Spencer Walker Rose/Dolly McGraw/Never Let A Dream Go By/Blues For A Weirdo/You Never Left My Side/Turn Back The Years/Don't Shake Me Free/Lay My Feet Down On The Street/Hero Of The Dreamers, time and time again. This albums a great credit to the British Country scene.

● The Judds latest British single release "I'm Falling In Love Tonight"/"John Deere Tractor" (RCA). Culled from the blockbuster album "Give A Little Love". Patty Loveless, the little lady with the big voice who made such an impact at the Silk Cut Festival, also has a British single. "I Did", this U.S. hit, is coupled with "Lonely Days, Lonely Nights", another former Stateside smash. Both songs are taken from the marvellous "Patty Loveless" (MCA) album.

● Sonny Curtis, the former Cricket, who recently completed a tour of Britain, has a new album and single available on Colt Records. Titled "Spectrum", the album comprises brand new recordings that have not yet been released in the States.

Round-Up

"Advertisements are published on the understanding that they are truthful, legal, decent and honest and in the interests of our readership.

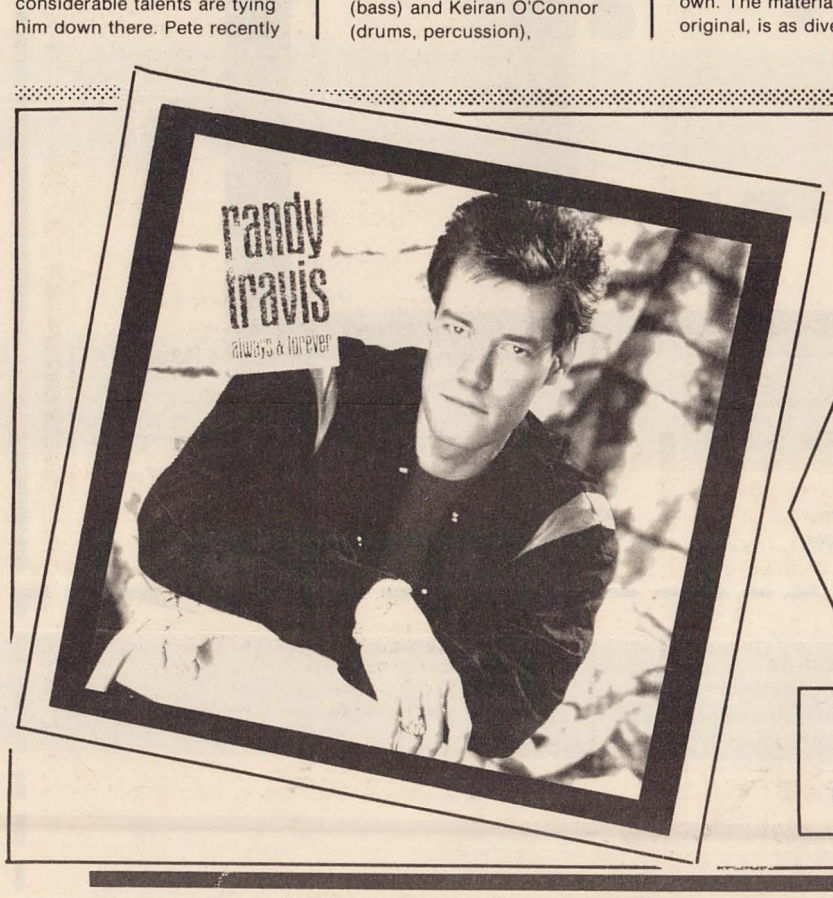
A great deal of care is expended by this newspaper to ensure that this is the case."

● Dan Branch & Hot Iron Express are gaining many fans with their infectious brand of country music played with a bluegrass feel. The lineup is both interesting and talented; Dan (vocals, guitar, harp), Mike (dobro, banjo, harmony), John (bass guitar) and Ursula (fiddle). Ursula, incidentally, is RADA trained, teaches classical cello and has performed with Hank Wangford.

● Myrtle Branch is a mature lady singer who debuts on the Comstock label with the single "I Thought I Heard You Call My Name" (Lee Emerson) and "Houston" (Larry Gatlin). Myrtle may have started her new career late in life, but it seems she's catching up pretty quickly judging by the American and European airplay her single is receiving.

● T. Graham Brown has a new single. "Rock It Billy"/"Later Train" (Capitol) is culled from the acclaimed album "I Tell It Like It Used To Be", which has received much pop press attention. Statements such as "it's a pleasure and a relief to report a brand new talent" and "at last a "New Country" talent who is doing something new" are appearing in just about every popular music journal.

● Tom Wopat, who has followed his fellow "Dukes Of Hazzard" star, John Schneider into the country charts now has a fan club. The address is Joyce Oliver, Route 1, Box 522, Haleyville, Alabama 35565.



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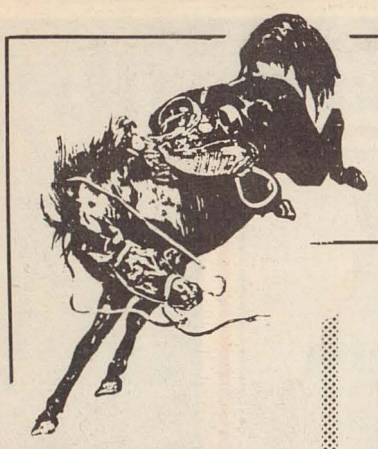

COUNTRY WORDSEARCH COMPETITION!

You may need to "train" your thoughts this month in order to "drive" your brain into "gear". So look "bus-y" for "plane" answers and stand no old "truck" in hoping it's smooth "sailing" as we ask you to check out the "grid" for singers who have recorded the following songs which all have an association with "transport". Remember the "vehicle" is up down or across and diagonally either way. So no "flights" of fancy but just "wheel" out the answers.

Compiled by Tony Anderson

W E S T U T T L E S T E R F L A T T O N Y H I L L
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N L O N G E R E V E N E R O F E D D E L S R N E B
Y O I Z F E D O N K E Y R N M S I L L I T O N J W
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R E U N G K J V N L Y R Y N R R N H E K M R A V E
Y R Y W E Y E O A H D B S G Z T D D R R E N E E F
T E C A O E P N H D O N A R E J O O E V Z M U R F
R S L R R O N O N N R J H R E R D E R R M E L O U
A A A R G N B I D Y N A R O E G V E C Y S C U W B
M L R E E F A R V O S Y G D J E D L L U N O O L Y
R G K N B H B S O O F E C G S A Y O L R R N N M M
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E M N H T G R A H A M B R O W N T O R N A D I W S
J O E C O N W A Y T W I T T Y R O N E E E W A J C
O T S E W Y L L E H S B J I M M Y B O O M N A R F

Post your entries to reach this office not later than 31st July.

The songs you need to transport the artists to are as follows:-

1. Hot Rod Lincoln
2. Luxury Liner
3. One Piece At A Time
4. Waiting For A Train
5. Lord Mr. Ford
6. Wreck On The Highway
7. Day I Jumped From Uncle Harvey's Plane
8. Ride, Ride, Ride
9. Riding My Thumb To Mexico
10. Pilot Of The Airways
11. Truck Driving Man
12. Leaving On A Jet Plane
13. Smooth Sailing
14. Big Train
15. L.A. Freeway
16. L.A. International Airport
17. Lovely Cruise
18. Wheels
19. Phantom 309
20. Riverboat
21. Looking At The World Through A Windshield
22. The Road Runner
23. Golden Rocket
24. No More Trains To Ride
25. Later Train
26. Guitars, Cadillacs
27. Down The Road
28. Road Hog
29. Truck Driving Son Of A Gun
30. I'm A Truck
31. Riding The Big "A"
32. Shotgun Rider
33. S.S. Lureline
34. Riding On That Train
35. Red Cadillac And A Black Moustache
36. Riding The Range
37. Railroad Bum
38. Midnight Flyer
39. Buggy Ride
40. World's Last Truck Driving Man
41. Last Train To Clarkesville
42. Hot Rod Race
43. Convoy
44. Flight 309 To Nashville

COUNTRY MUSIC Round Up

MAY '87
WORDSEARCH WINNER
Mrs J Shepperd
Tyne Road
Oakham
Rutland

The answers were:–

1. Roy Acuff, 2. Joan Baez, 3. Jim Reeves, 4. Jack Clement, 5. Doug Dillard, 6. Dan Fogelberg, 7. Ernie Ford, 8. John Fogerty, 9. Roy Orbison, 10. Dolly Parton, 11. Carl Perkins, 12. Ray Price, 13. Linda Ronstadt, 14. Lynn Anderson, 15. Carl Belew, 16. Roy Clark, 17. Jimmy Davis, 18. Roy Drusky, 19. Lester Flatt, 20. Earl Scruggs, 21. George Hay, 22. Doug Kershaw, 23. Bob Luman, 24. Roger Miller, 25. Ernest Tubb, 26. Billy Walker, 27. Larry Gatlin, 28. Dave Macon, 29. Tommy Overstreet, 30. Ralph Stanley, 31. Bob Atcher, 32. Chet Atkins, 33. Jack Greene, 34. Con Hunley, 35. George Jones, 36. Tanya Tucker, 37. Obie McClinton, 38. Bonnie Owens, 39. Kenny Rogers, 40. Johnny Russell, 41. Steve Wariner, 42. Dottie West.

PONTIN'S AUTUMN
Country Music Festivals 1987

ONLY A FEW PLACES LEFT!

HEMSBY HOLIDAY CENTRE, **Nr. Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.**
19th – 26th September 1987.
Artistes appearing include ★ Little Ginny & Room Service ★ Pete Sayers & Dixie Bluebirds ★ Raymond Froggatt Band ★ Tammy Cline & Southern Comfort ★ Lorne Gibson ★ West Virginia ★ Louisianna Hellraisers ★ Hurricane Ridge ★ Stu Page & Remuda ★ Campbell's Country ★ Plus many more.

26th September – 3rd October 1987.
Artistes appearing include ★ Greta & The Stray Shots ★ Linda & Arthur James ★ Spellbound ★ Johnny Marks ★ Mark Moseley, Marie Lester & The Ben Rees Band ★ Homer ★ Lena McCarthy & Her Band ★ Firewater ★ Bobby & Nashville Pride ★ Lore & The Legends ★ Plus many more.

BREAN SANDS HOLIDAY CENTRE, **Nr. Weston-Super-Mare, Avon. 10th – 17th October 1987.**
Artistes appearing include ★ Shag Conners & The Carrot Crunchers ★ Iona & Andy ★ Clinton Ford ★ West Virginia ★ Raymond Froggatt Band ★ Memphis Short & Grand Canyon ★ Whiskey River Band ★ Lena McCarthy & Her Band ★ Perfect Strangers ★ Kevin Duffy Band ★ Campbell's Country ★ Plus many more.

The artistes listed are not in any particular order, and the management reserve the right to alter the programme without prior notice.

For details of Country Music Festivals, send the coupon to: Pontin's Country Music Festivals, P.O. Box 27, Leicester LE2 7ZJ. Or telephone Banbury. ☎ **(0295) 67890**

Please send details of Pontin's Country Music Festivals 1987.
Name _____
Address _____
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CR02

AND DON'T MISS PONTIN'S NEW YEAR FESTIVAL AT PRESTATYN SANDS. 28th DEC – 2nd JAN 1988.

Hobby & Leisure
HOLIDAYS AT PONTIN'S
"The Heart of Country Music"

■ Following the tremendous success of Country Music Round Up's 5th. Annual "House Party" Weekend, D.F.D.S. Seaways are pleased to invite the readers of Europe's Best Selling Country Music Publication, to join them aboard their luxury Flag Ship 'Tor Britannia' for the journals 1st. Annual 'House Party' Afloat ...

■ We plan to emulate all their previous 'House Party' success, by taking you with us on our special 3 day (2 nights) Mini Cruise to Denmark ... During our 1st. 'House Party' voyage, (on day 2) we will be calling at the Danish port of Esbjerg, where everyone will have the opportunity to go ashore and spend time sight seeing, or souvenir shopping.

This special excursion coach trip is included in your House Party registration, at no extra charge, so you can, if you wish, remain aboard and relax in the comfort of the splendid amenities provided on your cruise vessel 'Tor Britannia' ...

... Either way, you're sure to find something to keep you interested, for the brief few hours before we set sail for another leisurely overnight cruise back to England ...

■ Of course it goes without saying, as with every Country Music Round Up 'House Party' event, the publishers will be providing the usual on going Top Class Country Cabaret entertainment, plus you can rely on the now well acknowledged fellowship and camaraderie that exists between Country Music Round Up's readers, writers and artists ... so it's bound to be fun from the time we cast off, until we return to tie up alonside the DFDS berth at the East Anglian port of Harwich.

■ This unique 3 day (special price) Country Music voyage, is exclusive to CMRU readers and is only bookable through the publication... as cabin berths for this initial "House Party Afloat" will be limited and sure to be fully subscribed, we suggest to avoid disappointment, you complete the cut out coupon at the base of this page NOW ...

The basic cost to become one of our ***SALT WATER COWBOYS,*** *is just* ***£69.50 ...***

... This price is per person based on sharing a 4 berth cabin, (with integral shower and full toilet facilities) ... plus • a full 'Help Yourself' breakfast each morning

... and gives you exclusive entrance to the ships 'Nite Club' for all the star studded entertainment during the CMRU Cruise ...

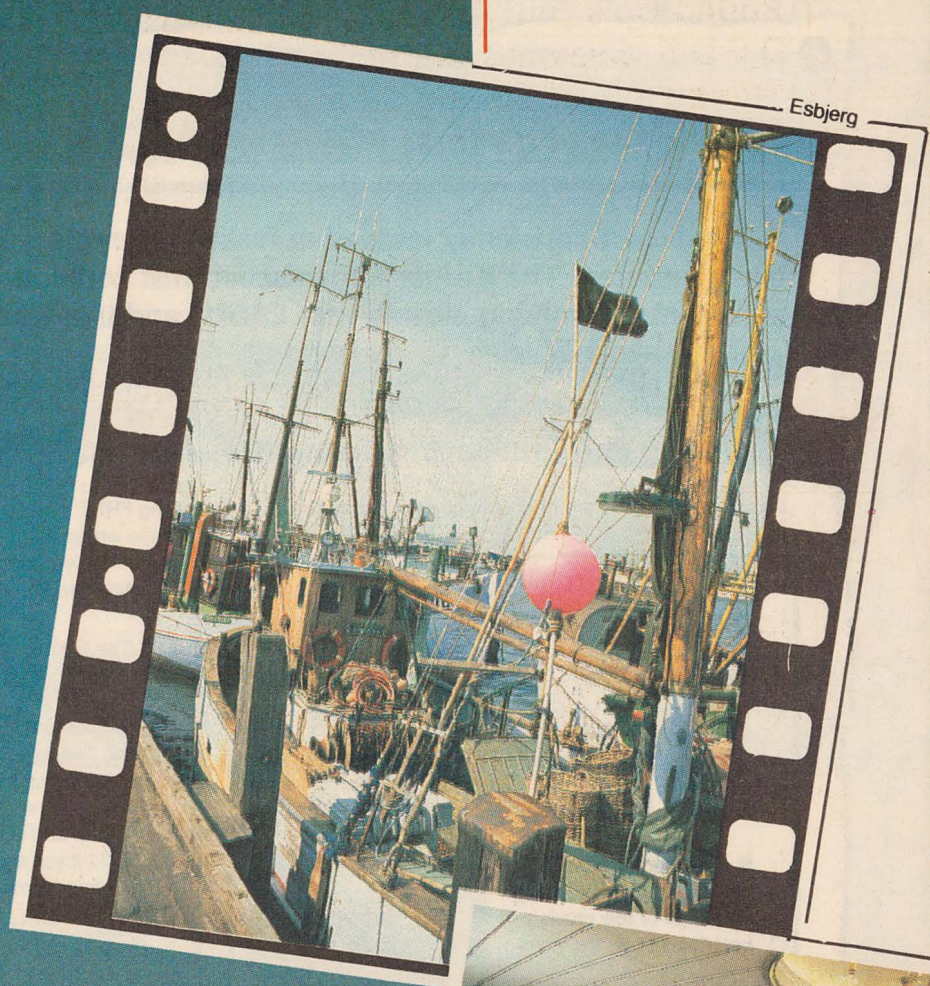
■ So choose your partners now to be sure you can share a country experience of a lifetime ...

Special Note: ***SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY***

Two person Cabin reservations will be accepted on payment of an additional per person premium. This premium payable together with your deposit at the time of booking.

Harwich-Esbjerg

Sun 1st to Tues 3rd Nov '8



UNTRY MUSIC ROUND UP
OUSE PARTY' AFLOAT

BOOKING INSTRUCTIONS:

C.M.R.U. "House Party Afloat"

(Accounts and Bookings Dept.)

286/287 High Street, (Upper Precinct), Lincoln. LN2 1AL.

(Tel 0522 41546)

Berth — Harwich: *Parkeston Quay.* ***Esbjerg:*** *Englandskajen*

TIMETABLE

Harwich DEPART		Esbjerg ARRIVE		Esbjerg DEPART		Harwich ARRIVE	
Sun	17.00	Mon	13.45	Mon	17.30	Tue	12.30

Fill in the booking form attached and return it to us at the above address ... including a deposit of £20.00 per person. In event of cancellations before 1st. September, the full deposit will be refunded, less a £2.50 per person admin fee. However, cancellations will not be accepted after Sept. 1st. '87, except under exceptional, or medical circumstances and no deposits will be refunded for cancellations received after this time ...

(Full settlement is required to reach these offices before September 1st. 1987)

Dear C.M.R.U. ... I have read the booking instructions carefully and request you enrol the following as **'SALT WATER COWBOYS'** ... and wish you to reserve House Party Cabin Berths for persons set out herein My Name is

(please print) Mr/Mrs/Miss ..... (Christian name) ..... (Surname)

My address for all correspondence is:- .....

.....

.....

(Post Code) ..... Tel No. .....(Std).....

(Over 21) Yes/No

PASSPORTS REQUIRED ... NON U.K. PASSPORT HOLDERS SHOULD OBTAIN THE NECESSARY VISA.

SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

Number of persons requiring Berths ☐

The persons in my Party are:-

1 .....
2 .....
3 .....
4 .....
5 .....
6 .....
7 .....
8 .....
9 .....
10 .....
11 .....
12 .....
13 .....
14 .....
15 .....
16 .....

Details of any additional persons should be enclosed on a separate sheet.

Please also book me the following alternative accommodation at the stated supplements

☐ **2 Berth/inside Cabins at £25 per person extra**

☐ **2 Berth/outside Cabins at £32 per person extra**

I enclose cheque/P.O. Value £ ..... **(Made payable to CMRU Publishing Company) in respect of all deposit/Supplements required.**

Signed .....

THE KRUGER ORGANISATION

PETERBOROUGH COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

MONTHLY BULLETIN BOARD

PETERBOROUGH BACKS BRITISH ...

● A criticism constantly levelled at festival promoters is the lack of British talent featured. The Kruger Organisation has certainly tried to defeat that argument by working closely with CMRU and the Musicians' Union.

● On the main stage at Peterborough there are seven concerts over the weekend totalling approximately 24 hours - of that time, almost 8 hours is given over to British acts. A third of the showtime.

Two of the concerts are of course totally British, one of those having FREE admission - and the other, the concert that starts the whole event having one-ticket price of £5.50. A very affordable price for a show that features six of the very top British bands.

● The Friday Night Award Winners Show not only stars two acts who have been three-time British Category International award winners, i.e. Tammy Cline and Poacher, but the current "Bronze Star" Award Holders of the 16 nation Euro Country Music Masters contest, staged by Tros Television of Holland, in Germany last July, Louisiana Hellraisers and of course fans won't need reminding that ... Stu Page & Remuda, Raymond Froggatt and Hickory Lake are all winners from the 1986 CMRU International Awards listings ... and each of these acts are again Nominees in '87.

ON STAGE AT PETERBOROUGH

● On Monday afternoon, again on Main Stage the CMRU showcase concert is set to highlight the career development of both new and established British talent and will include a few surprises, (more on this next month). This show was one of the highlights of last year's festival - and with admission totally free ... seating will again be at a premium.

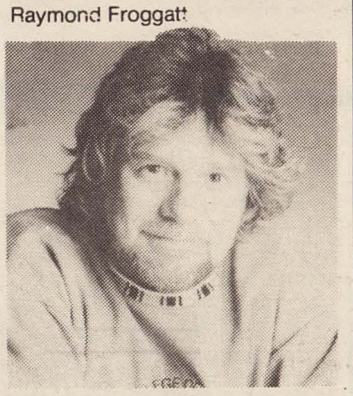
● Apart from these two special British shows, Poacher, Hickory Lake, The Kevin Duffy Band, Pete Sayers and Scotlands Duke Boys are all appearing on the premier stage in Concert during the weekend.

● CMRU's open air stage, located central to the main outside arena is dedicated once again to presenting just original material from British Song Writers, performed by Quality British artistes, and offers the media & public alike an informal opportunity to appreciate just a few of the largely untapped talents currently available on the British Country Scene.

● Jeffrey Kruger was, concerned that a festival in Peterborough should present at least one artiste from the area - so Circuit Judge have been invited to open the musical proceedings on the outside stage on Saturday ... Pat Judge, a popular organiser in the local country music world, as well as the front man of this fine local band, is also discussing late night barbecue sessions with the promoter's Peterborough office.

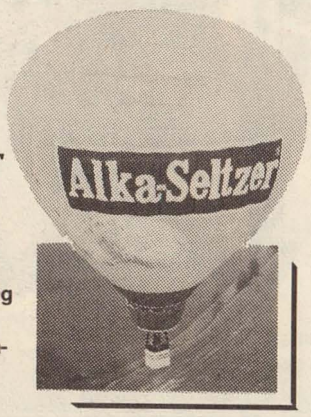
Tammy Cline and Poacher.

Raymond Froggatt



Friday Night Award Winners Show

THE MORNING AFTER ... THE NIGHT BEFORE!



● A refreshing site for late-night revellers feeling the effect of too much partying will be the Alka-Seltzer balloon!

● It's one of three such attractions due to appear in the crowded Peterborough skies over the bank-holiday weekend. Aerial activity already includes four stunt displays by British teams sponsored by Marlboro, Toyota, Unipart and Jaguar - and the colourful parachute drop by the famous Trailblazers.

ROTARY RAFTS ... ?

● Local Water Authorities have given their blessing to the Kruger Organisation for activities on the Nene River, adjacent to the Festival site. Rotary Clubs in the area are hoping to organise a sponsored raft-race, ending up at the Key Theatre.

IT'S A HEARTBEAT ...

nothing but a HEARTBEAT!

● Custom car club members will hand-tow a customised pick-up in the Carnival Parade, encouraging bystanders to throw coins into the back of the truck for the Heartbeat charity.

● Local custom car clubs are planning a meet to coincide with the Carnival Parade which kicks off the Festival's programme of outside entertainment on Saturday lunchtime. After the parade a static custom car show on site, will precede an evening cruise by the clubs.

COMPETITIONS and DISPLAYS FOR WESTERN ENTHUSIASTS ...

£200 TROPHIES ...

Marsh Catering, a local outside catering company have offered two magnificent 17" silver trophies (valued at £200) as first prizes in the "BEST DRESSED HORSE & RIDER" and "FAST-DRAW" competitions which will be a feature of this year's outside arena event at Peterborough Country Music Festival ... Another local company, Typecast Graphics, will present engraved plaques to the runners up in both events.

Horse & Rider ...

The "Best Dressed Horse & Rider" competition is open to the whole family - and entrants must wear authentic styles of "The Old West". Judging will take place in the Main Arena on the morning of Saturday August 29th - so that the winners may take pride of place in the Carnival Parade through the City.

The "Fast-Draw" contest will be run on knockout basis, with heats in the Arena throughout the weekend - and a grand final 'shoot-out' on Monday August 31st. Nationally accepted rules and laws governing safety regulations will be observed throughout.

● Amongst the prizes for the Fast-Draw competition is a superb full size replica Yellow Boy Winchester Rifle, donated by Battle Order Shotgun of Eastbourne - and an Indian war bonnet of black, white and orange feathers ... This traditional Sioux nation headress will be presented by Blackjack Oak of Southampton.

● Those wishing to take part in either competition should contact the Fesival Office immediately on 0733.63311. (A nominal entry charge of £1.50 will be made to cover administrative costs).

● As we went to press, more valuable prizes were being arranged and details finalised - more details in next month's Bulletin Board.

STAR LINES

BARBARA FAIRCHILD ADDED ..

● Barbara Fairchild has been added to the Festival line-up. A traditional favourite with British country audiences and one whose superb performances have earned standing ovations at festivals and concerts throughout Europe, Barbara has agreed to play Peterborough on the Sunday afternoon show which also features Ronnie Prophet and Billie Jo Spears.

● Barbara, who will replace Jo Ann Steele, is backed by popular British act the Kevin Duffy band, who will also open the afternoon show.

The Peterborough Festival

INSIDE REPORT

● Bringing the Music of its Membership to the notice of the public and the media has always been an integral and vital part of the Northern Guild of Songwriters aim to get British Country Music the recognition it deserves.

N.G.S. Peterborough Show Case ...

The words that go with the music

FAVOURITES BACK ...

● While the Peterborough Country Music Festival has striven to present legendary names at the top of the bill - the policy includes several areas in choice of artistes. Names hardly known in the UK, but breaking new ground in the States; those who have been over maybe once or twice and begun to develop a fan following here - and firm favourites who have already well established themselves in the hearts of British fans. constantly on request lists sent to promoters' offices are featured this year.

FREDDY WELLER

● Freddy already has a big following in continental Europe - and his name comes up so regularly in fan letters that it's obvious his British popularity grows with each visit. Working this year with the celebrated Pete Sayers Band at Peterborough, there's no doubt he'll make even more friends - and it's hoped there'll be an album out for the Festival.

● Still the 'King of Cajun' as far as European audiences are concerned.

JIMMY C NEWMAN

Jimmy's band with its highlighted fiddle and accordian music will always be made welcome. The sense of fun that extends through every performance and into their off-stage time keeps fans and fellow artistes amused. The jokes and musical fooling plus Jimmy's gentlemanly bearing, is a style which rubs off on his band

BILLIE JO SPEARS

● Tour after tour, show after show, there is it seems no end to B-J's popularity in Britain. Her string of hit records of a few years ago have now become virtual standards on radio - and her still classy stage presentation, and extravagance of gowns, plus the elegance of her band members, continues to make her a winner on any concert stage.

The opportunity to stage a two and a half hour show of 'Original Material' on the Monday at the Peterborough Country Music Festival, as part of the Country Music Round Up British Songwriters Showcase something the NGS sees as being highly beneficial to its aims.

The fact that this will be the first occasion that any major International Festival in Britain has allocated time for the performance of 100% original British Songwriters material and that the NGS was approached to participate. shows that the Guild is beginning to make considerable inroads on the scene.

The opportunity is now there for the NGS to show the high quality and standards of performance within its membership.

It's appropriate that two of the founder members of the Guild will be appearing. Pete Naden and Randy Blue...

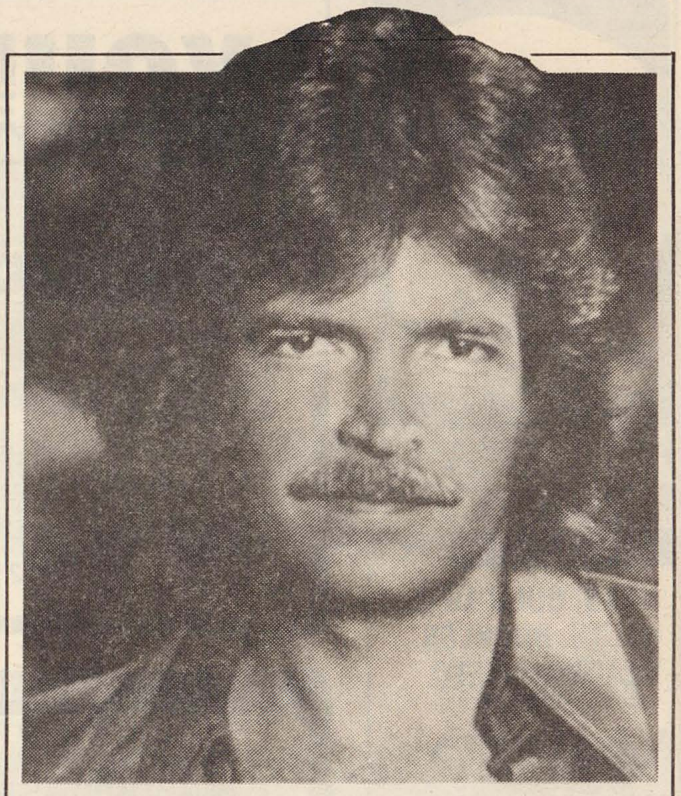
Pete as part of The Naden Brothers Band and Randy with Miss Bobbie Wyatt & Deep Water. Both Bands are Lancashire based, both have a reputation for quality performances among Country Music Club audiences. Both are Singer/Songwriters supported by good class musicians.

The Naden Brothers Band consists of Pete/lead vocals/rhythm guitar, Tom (Smiley) Bowker/electric lead and acoustic guitar/harmony vocals. Dave Naden bass/ harmony vocals. Chris Robinson/drums.
Included in their hour long spot are sure to be 'Running Water' 'Willing & Able' and 'Who Cares About Tomorrow'.

Randy Blue & Bobbie Wyatt with Deep Water have Randy/lead vocals/rhythm guitar/keyboards/harmony vocals. Bobbie/lead and harmony vocals. Rodney Hill/electric lead guitar. Milan Mekas/bass/vocals/vocal harmonies and Chris Tattershall/drums.
'I Feel The Need', and 'The Dreamer', 'Feeling Good Looking Sad' will form part of their repertoire.

Singer/Songwriter Mick Gordon from Grantham will be doing thirty minutes supported by one of the bands.

There's sure to be some literature about the NGS available on site, so if you enjoy what you will hear, you might like to become a member? and help spread the word that Britain does have some extremely talented country music songwriters.



FREDDY WELLER

BILLIE JO SPEARS

ONE MAN AND HIS MUSIC ...

● In a world of musical fads and vogues. Country music has managed to stay the course because the bulk of its fans have accepted updates and changes in the name of progress. This loyalty is now being acknowledged by the younger music fans who are accepting the fact that country music has a pedigree as deep rooted peoples music from the songbook of life. No longer is country music just the music of the Mums and Dads, it is becoming more than ever the music of the people ...

LEIGH STERLING

● Leigh Sterling was brought up in the 60s playing rock and roll in several local Manchester pop bands of the era, the best known being The Talismen. He had the benefit of a good education behind him and the security of a good job as a commercial artist to guarantee his future ...

Then tragedy it was discovered he had retinal detatchment.

Several operations left Leighs vision fair in daylight but molelike at dusk a condition that forced him to abandon his career in commercial art and try to earn his living in music. But life's authorities decided he could still train for a "proper" job and it was considered that music was not a respectable living for a well educated youngster so Leigh was dispatched to London to train in telephony.

Once trained he took a job with Barclays Bank (in Fleet Street), and stuck it out for five years.

● Working in London he met up with two unsighted musicians Jeff Long and Bob Goodwin who provided Leigh with enough inspiration to take up performing and songwriting again and together they cut a demo LP of original Leigh Sterling material. This gathered a fair amount of interest from several record companies. So they teamed up with a drummer and formed the group Rich Fever. Their second demo prompted EMI to record three of their original singles at the famed Abbey Road Studios.

● On the road with Rich Fever just three months prior to a tour of South Africa a series of minor accidents sent him totally blind.

Leigh was almost devastated. But because of his talents as the singer/songwriter/guitarist the band persuaded him to make the tour and they enjoyed seven months of great success, playing every major African City venue and large open air stadiums.

● The band returned to Africa three consecutive years, earning the praises of the music fans and the media. Peter Bayer, one of South Africas most respected music critics wrote about Leigh Sterling "one of the most gifted country singer songwriters to ever visit the African continent". He compared his guitar playing to that of Pete "Impy" Clifford a legendary guitarist who had played with John Mayall, Jeff Beck, and Dusty Springfield.

● In 1977 when the band broke up Leigh returned to his native Manchester, as he could no longer accept the injustices of the South African regime. (He had been warned several times of his attitude towards apartheid) ... Back home he wrote and recorded his first solo single "Rock and Roll Resthome" which found favour with radio presenters, this prompted his second single which was aimed at the kiddies market. He then recorded a solo LP "In The Wings".

Mike Nicholas of the Record Mirror, wrote Leigh Sterlings country orientated work stands up to anything currently on offer. He went on to describe Leigh as remarkable

... but so far real success has eluded him and Leigh Sterling continues to busy himself in recording studios producing records for others, and recording music for TV advertising.

● During the past few years Leigh has also been playing a residency at The Bowling Green "Pub" it's next to Manchester University, so usually gets a packed enthusiastic student audience, but people frequently travel from as far away as Newcastle and Blackpool to hear Leigh's unique talents.

● Aside from his own songs he regularly features the work of other lesser known songwriters, in his show and declares he has thousands of really good new songs that are begging to be heard and appreciated.

● Leigh Sterling has now put together a new band hoping to find fresh fields & inspiration. People keep telling him that his music is country and that he should present it to country audiences. The man who was told some 15 years ago to get a "proper" job but still has to prove that music is his "proper" job, is looking for people who want to listen ... Leigh and his band will be bringing their talents to the Peterborough Festival this year, via CMRU songwriters stage and will have a short show case spot on the main stage. Make a point of seeing them. If you like todays country music you will like Leigh Sterling.

... By Brian Ahern ... May 1987

1986/87

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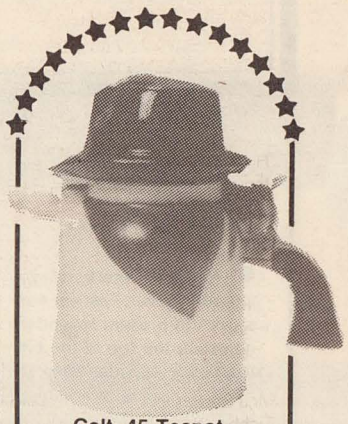

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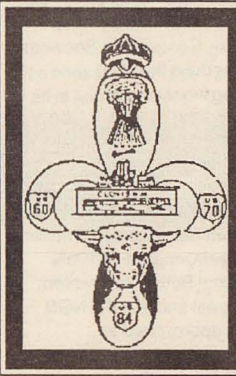

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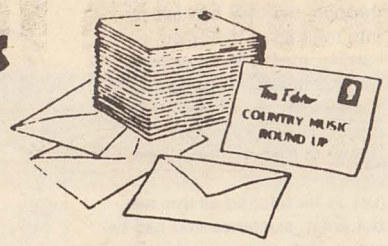
Letters to the Editor



Dear Sir

Just a few lines to ask you why – why? am I having such great difficulty in finding a tape?
I have been in shops large and small in Leicester, Nottingham, Derby, Birmingham, Coventry, Leeds, Sunderland and Newcastle.

Here in Leicester I have had this tape 'on order' for six weeks now with one of our biggest record shops. I even took my April copy of Country Music Round Up to give them the number.
O.K. sir, the tape!
'Heart Land' by The Judds.
Hoping you can help.

Mr J Sawkill
Tichborne Street
Leicester

Sorry Mr Sawkill you were looking at the USA Billboard Chart..not the British CMA/Gallop listings..The album you want is 'Give A Little Love' this is 'Heart Land', with extra trax's for the British market..

●●●●●●●

Dear Editors

I have written before to say how much I enjoy reading the Round Up. The May issue went off to the USA, to my friend, for her comments.

Every month I have scoured the pages in the hope there might be an article on Lacy J Dalton: but no, as she is appearing at the Peterborough Festival please lets have an article and perhaps a cover pic in the near future.

Through your column I would like to thank everyone for a lovely holiday on the Isle of Wight, from Norman & the O.T.T. band, the guest bands & most of all, my friends who went with me, it was a wonderful week.

Thank you once again
Shelagh Cann
Greenwich Rd.
E/Sussex

●●●●●●●

Dear Sir,

So the Odeon Theatre in Birmingham plans to close its doors to live shows "I wonder why".

Just recently I went there to see Tammy Wynette, downstairs was a sell-out and I assume upstairs was too.

The following Saturday I returned to see the Raymond Froggatt show, and this is where I start to rave on. It was a stunner, supported by Spill the Beans and The Duffy Brothers "great acts in their own right". Raymond delivered a superb show in impeccable style to a similar capacity audience as Tammy's.

The stage during the last twenty minutes or so of his act was besieged by people "you can't keep Froggie fans away for long". Yes this was a great night, one that I and many others will never forget.

Yours sincerely
Mr L.H. Chamberlain.
34 Sackville Close,
Stratford-on-Avon
Warwickshire

Dear Mr Kettle,

I fully endorse everything regarding Pinkertons Colours.

I too, thought they were the very Best of British and fully deserved their place on the show.

I spoke to the band afterwards and I was amazed at their great knowledge of the music and their genuine love of it. Such pleasant young men to speak with as well.

Our seats were near theirs in the Main Arena over the Wembley weekend and they watched all the acts. It was great to see a band taking an interest in the music and not propping up the Jim Beam stand all weekend.

George Hamilton IV thought they were terrific. So let's all support the many good bands that we have in this country, and stop following the usual British way of always knocking and picking holes.

We don't all like the same kind of music, but when a band plays and sings in tune, they are doing their job properly. So don't just dismiss them because it's not what you like. Credit where it's due please.

Be proud of the good bands and encourage them because so many get fed up and disheartened and pack it in.

Why not write to Mervyn Conn and tell him who your favourite band is and, who knows he may yet see the light. Flood his office with letters and let him know what the British scene is all about.

We live in hope
Yours sincerely
M. Gray

24 Hurtwood Rd
Walton-on-Thames
Surrey

●●●●●●●

Dear Eds,

Re: John Cutler's letter and his request for my views .... I suspect that John's letter will open a beautiful can of worms, anyway, here goes!

A) Rowan re 'strange line up' I agree with that, they needed a double bass to give it a bit of clout.

B) New Grass Revival

Whilst N.G.R. are familiar to all bluegrass fans I suspect that the majority of c.m. fans who attend Wembley will never have seen anything like them before and thus getting to grips with the unknown is rather difficult in such a short time.

John Cutler states that Wembley is not the place for Rowan and N.G.R. but how on earth can punters be made aware if they are not given a media showcase? I applaud Mervyn Conn for actually giving NGR a Wembley spot - it was the main reason I went., they are hardly likely to turn up at my local club ... Whilst catching John's drift of why should they play where they are not appreciated I can only advocate more media exposure and then perhaps they will be .... Rowan has a loyal army of fans who turn out to see him perform and have done for many years, at various small venues, but to use his quote 'It was great to play Wembley, and one of England's premier C.M. festivals'.

Hope the comments are of use to you,

Regards
Eve Morris
18 Powell Street
Harrogate HG1 4BY
Nth. Yorks.

N.B. If anyone did get a bit of a rough deal on the Monday it was Sleepy la Beef as most of the punters were still thrashing about following the interval.

●●●●●●●

Dear Editor

While at South St Nr Barnsley I wrote to you concerning the suitability of a young girl for most promising newcomer, her name is Bettina, this must be about 5 months ago. Your reply was a little off hand I thought at the time but I nevertheless accepted your reply of the computer etc.

But recent Silver Dolar chart positions only served to back up my first opinion. So knowing one of us was a little off the mark, at her next local concert, I this time listened more objectively and was even more impressed.

I can say now that she is singularly the most talented British c/w artist I have ever seen in my 27 years of interest. Apart from her very good looks, she actually played 3 instruments on stage, her classical style guitar playing of her instrumental pieces were brill to say the least, you can understand every word she sings she has the confidence of someone twice her age, charisma personality & charm, all this & still at school, I noticed improvement also. If you have not yet caught her act, do so now, you still might not agree with me afterwards but I think she's Britains Barbara Mandrell.

Regular Reader.

Eds
Dear Regular Reader.
We don't usually print unsigned letters and can we point out, it's only thanks to the G.P.O. that we received your letter at all, as neither C.M.R.U. or any of its staff or editors, have ever resided at 61, Park Road, Forest Road, Lincoln ... but that apart.
Regular Reader...
Despite your obvious enthusiasm for this 'singularly most talented act', you appear to have done her a great dis-service by not registering your vote for her within the current Annual Awards Poll...But, Regular Reader, it might make you feel better, when we tell you, that our records show that no one else voted for this 'singularly most talented country and western artist' in the poll either!! and before you take offence, these are only observations of facts and not in anyway to be taken as a slur on the artists abilities or talents.

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Dear Ed,

I am a country music fan and try to see as many artistes as possible. Finding however that some artistes use backing tapes. My opinion is that it is cheating and some of the so called, top artistes are getting recognition for prerecorded shows. I would like to know how other fans feel about this.

Yours faithfully
J Geldard
6 Ingleby Manor
Ingleby Greenhow
Great Ayton TS9 6RB

Dear CMRU

We are sure you will be interested to learn Jim's album has sold 1,600 copies in its first week on release. Thank you to those of you that have already bought it and thanks in advance to those that will.

The album is being played throughout the country on Irish, Country and Folk programmes demonstrating the close links between American Country, British Folk and Traditional Irish music.

Yours sincerely,
R. Norton

Fastafont (Music) Limited
Jim Whitman/Mencap/Green Fields of Ireland

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Dear Editor

I second other readers views the paper does get better. I've been with you from year one. Having no transport and now in the senior citizens group, the Big Venues are out, but via the good coverage, marvelous photos and write ups I'm there in mind.

Our local Pub have Dennis Collier's "Dixon Line" Mondays and a couple of weeks ago featured Stu Page and Remuda, a right treat for us ... I found them very friendly too!

Now I'm looking for help! For quite some time I've been trying to purchase a Frankie Lane record. Bobby Bare recorded it too "this time you gave me a mountain". I've contacted mail order companies through CMRU without success so can you please make a plea on my behalf it means so much to myself and my hubby. Keep up the good work thank you.

Yours sincerely
Mrs K. Newton
10 Fulford Street
Castleford
W. Yorks WF10 5RG

P.S. also wanted for my collection Brenda Lee's "Even Better".

●●●●●●●

Dear Editor,
With reference to Larry Drummond's criticisms regarding local acts in the Cumbria area.

If he is to be a critic at all he should go to see acts with an open mind. The impression he gives is that he is a "modern country music" fan e.g. George Strait, Steve Young etc. and if any act does not perform these or country chart material then they will not go down with Mr. Drummond. He says it is boring to listen to "Blanket on the Ground" etc. but if every act played all the modern material then they would all be singing the same songs and I am sure this too would be boring. As a dedicated country fan I personally enjoy the well known standards if they are performed well. He has recently made unfavourable comments about two local favourite bands e.g. Harper Valley and Kentucky Bourbon. I saw the latter recently who sang everything from Hank Williams to Gene Watson and Lacy J Dalton (and may I say they did so very well) but what chance have these bands got if even "Colorado" can't please him.

Yours Faithfully
D. Sim
87 Moorclose Road
Workington Cumbria

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Dear Sir,

I was privileged to attend a Country & Western concert at Doncaster ICI Club yesterday evening. I say privileged because it was such a wonderful evening of superb entertainment.

The line up was "Spill the Beans", "Duffy Brothers" and "Raymond Froggatt"

All the acts were stupendous, it was Country at its best performed by three magnificent British Acts.

May I use your paper to thank all the artistes concerned.

V. Wilson
56 Hunoter Cose,
Cantley Doncaster.

Please

KEEP letters short.
Write on one side of the paper only. Letters written on both sides will not be considered for publication. All letters are subject to editing and submission will be taken to imply acceptance of that condition.

The Editors

Become a Millionaire ...

Run A Country Music Club (Or Can You ?)

A lighthearted look at starting and running a Country Music Club (lawfully).

● We start our tongue in cheek tale with Fred and Betty Myth, a middle aged working class couple, who stumbled upon a country music festival during a weekend break spent at a popular Holiday Camp ... Fred was a proud committee member of his local pub's dart team ... Betty was an active member of the local branch of the Townswomans Guild. They had decided to take this break because they both enjoyed listening to country music and Fred had five budget Jim Reeves albums among his record collection ... Betty liked the music too however, preferred listening to her (M.F.P.) Slim Whitman LP. She also enjoyed Glen Campbell, especially after seeing him in "True Grit" and she always thought that 'her Fred' had a look of John Wayne, (Fred secretly reckoned he favoured Clint Eastwood more, give or take a few inches and pounds)

● Unable to recover from the deep impression made on them by "live music" on this holiday, they started to seek out Country and Western Music shows and together, they began to acquire the trappings of identity ... matching embroidered shirts, white stetson hats with multi-coloured tail feathers, cowboy boots, jeans, Nashville stickers and sew on badges ... Betty even bought Fred a replica Colt 45 and a gun belt. She felt proud of him, especially when she saw him stood with the others, his cowboy hat clasped firmly against his breast, six gun held high ready to fire a salvo at the completion of 'Trilogy'. This ultimate gesture, proof of his dedication to Country and Western music, often brought a secret tear to her eyes.

● It became a time of great involvement, a new found dedication to their 'very own' music ... In fact a new world had been opened to them. They began to amass a great collection of records and tapes bought from the many performers that they were seeing, it didn't matter who sang them as long as they had the songs they knew, the songs they enjoyed dancing and singing to. Some British artists now even spoke to them by name ... and would sometimes dedicate their favourite songs to them ... Yes, they felt they had truly joined the swing to British Country Western Music.

Very soon both of them felt confident enough to give personal recommendations to various club organisers on who to book and who not to book ... After all Fred now had dozens of signed photographs of various acts, and he also had a couple of personal phone numbers.

● By now, Fred had left the local darts committee as he couldn't see the sense in grown men throwing miniature arrows at a target (He'd been dropped from the team). Betty too, went less and less to the Townswomans Guild. She had however joined night school to learn leather carving and bead threading (hence the phone nos to let the artist know "the present" was ready). Then came a shock the Country Music Club, at the local pub was closed. There were two reasons (1) because the landlord had left and the new one hated 'Country 'n Western' music ... He was a jazz fan (who had a little goatee beard and wore striped shirts.) Fred said 'He looks ridiculous dressing up like that, trying to look like Acker Bilk". And (2) The club organiser had run off with that 'nice lady' who sold the raffle tickets. (That's sex and scandal angle out of the way),

● Fred and Betty now had to travel 10 miles to get to the next nearest "Country Music" Club (and go back to being one of the crowd, as this was a concert type club just music ..) just when they had managed to get their feet under the table at the local. Yes, its true they had to take the door money and raffle, also at times pay the band when the organiser had, just run the "nice lady" home. Of course they had refused payment for the task and Fred claimed he had gained valuable experience as a club organiser from that night and "money could not buy his new found brand of expertees".

● Soon, travelling to the new club became a problem, a lot of their enjoyment was spoiled because it was not the same as singing and dancing and firing one's gun, and if you had a drink taxis were too dear, the bus too was out of the question, because of the philistine bus drivers remarks like, 'Wheres your hoss tonight cowboy' also his insistance on calling them Roy and Trigger ... Fred actually challenged him to a fast draw duel (to sort out the men from the boys) but the coward only wanted to brawl. Fred, of course, would not, because it would only belittle the true spirit of Country 'n Western music.

●●●●●●●

● Then it happened one night they heard one of their favourite acts complain at the loss of a regular booking in Fred and Betty's area, and suggesting that some knowledgeable folk might open a venue of their own ... By this time Fred and Betty had become known as 'Rowdie & Belle' and to make it better for all they now signed their new names on the letters that they wrote to the Bands when they sent them belts and beads, also on their requests to their Local Radio Country music programmes.

After much discussion between themselves, and soul searching they formulated their master plan to bring back real country music to their area. No more travelling, no more trash pop country bands, who played that modern 'Eagles' rubbish. They would show them 'know it all' so called experts, how it should be done, because they had paid their dues in the hard school by becoming involved in British country music at grass roots level and rode all of the blows of the unknowing. They would do it for their love of Country and Western music.

They discovered the Village Hall was only used through the day as a play school and the Townswoman's Guild meetings, some evenings but they could seat 250 there, and it had a small stage and changing rooms ...

There was a coffee room that would convert nicely to a bar and plenty of chairs and tables.

It offered its own record player and tape deck, plumbed into a PA system. The local vicar's gardener was the caretaker and was more than willing to let it out a fiver a night on the quiet with no questions asked or given, providing it was left in good order by the next day or he'd want an extra fiver to clean it up himself.

●●●●●●●

That was enough 'Rowdie & Belle' had got their start. They set about making their own tickets, posters and nameboard for The 'Nine Stone' Cowboy Country & Western Club named after the Glen Campbell song that Belle liked (she was a bit deaf), which also explains why she didn't mind six guns blasting off next to her lugholes.

After booking a band and agreeing a fee (less 'their' commission, of course as Booking Agents), ...

... contacted the local radio country music DJ's for 'free' advertising, and very soon with a van full of booze bought from their local supermarket, plates of pies and sandwiches to sell, raffle prizes, they opened their very own 'Country 'n Western Club.

● The first night was a raging success, the venue was full to overflowing and the Door, Bar and Raffle takings made them over £500 profit. After the first month the total profits rose to over £2, 000. Encouragement enough, 'Rowdie' left his day job in true country Anti-hero style "Take This Job and Shove It" he told his employer, I'm into country music fulltime ... He would sign on and draw a bit off the dole, do a bit of back pocket money work on the side, then get a good draw from his Country Music Club. (Rowdie and Belle' blessed the day that they first booked into that country music festival). They were headed for easy street, and would live happy ever after, in style! Right ...

No Wrong ... Fred and Betty Myth had made the all to common mistake of trying too take their pleasures into the business world in belief that their acquired knowledge of country music would see them through, but they had fallen into the trap of their own making, mostly because they were completely ingnorant of the laws of the land and the rules that control business. (Some of the mentioned laws, rules and conditions may seem just as far fetched as this tale, but are in existance and can be acted upon at any time).

The jazz fan landlord was the first to complain ... he was losing trade to this Country 'n Western Club. The Licence Victualler's case was based on the Village Hall 'Club' not having a drinks licence. The local council joined the attack because the 'Club' was not on their register and was holding unlicensed music for entertainment and dancing.

Next came the Fire Brigade, no safety certificate. Then came trouble from the D.O.E. Agency Service, they had no license to gainfully employ entertainers and draw commission from them. Next the Performing Rights Society was threatening to sue for non payment of P.R.S. Duty. Then the Gaming Authority, no permit to organise a game of chance for gain (The Raffle), and so it goes on. The Taxman, The VAT man, The Building Inspector, the Environmental Health, Noise Polution etc, the local people living close to the Hall complained of the noise and gunfire, and a pair of can can knickers had been found up the flagpole on the village green, (although their case was based on the garments being found warm).

Then the local Print Union jumped in with a claim the club was robbing their members of their living by printing their own literature. Local Radio received complaints from the Watch Committee because of the 'free advertising' of commercial events. The M.U. and Equity had had complaints from the local entertainments agency and registered promoters. Even the bus driver, who was a shop steward at the local bus depot, he came down for the laugh ...

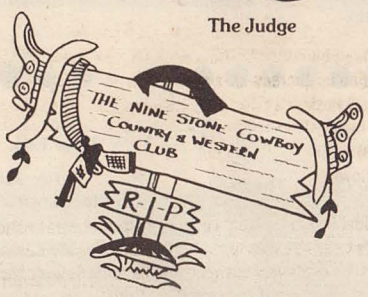
Even as I write, I see the "Circuit Judge" looking for his black cap, it looks like 'Boothill' for 'Rowdie & Belle' all because they went to a weekend country festival to get away from it all.

Mr and Mrs Myth

Rowdy and Belle Myth

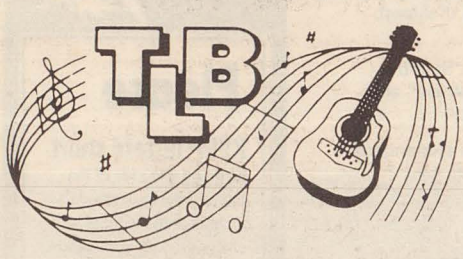
Take This Job And Shove It.

The Judge



Feature By Brian Aherne

TONY BEST LEISURE



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We Look Forward To Seeing You All
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Shackband
George Moody
Jenny Speller
Roy Waller
Felicity Haze
Hickory Lake
Lorne Gibson
Colorado
Spellbound
Philomena Begley

HARLOW

'NASHVILLE FEVER' ALL THE WAY FOR 10th HARLOW FREE FESTIVAL

An enthusiastic crowd of thousands celebrated the tenth anniversary of Harlow's All–British Country Music Festival, and a stampeding herd of buffalo wouldn't have shifted them...so a little drop of rain certainly didn't.

After all, they were all packed–in around the bandstand to see some of the best of British Country, and that's exactly what they saw. Saturday's wind and rain jepardized the Festivals tight schedule from the start, which was delayed whilst sound and lighting technicians dried out the electrics.

All that was soon forgotten as first 'Clovis' and then the 'Shackband' started warming things up, and by the time 'Phil Wallace', his 'Empty Pockets' and 'Colorado' took to the stage, flying umbrellas, ruffled feathers, soggy stetsons and rusty sours were long forgotten.

Philomena Begley, currently Ireland's favourite daughter, brought Saturday's proceedings to a close, and, having flown in from Portugal for the Festival, promised better weather for Sunday. Her performance clearly illustrated why she has become one of the biggest names on the national country scene.

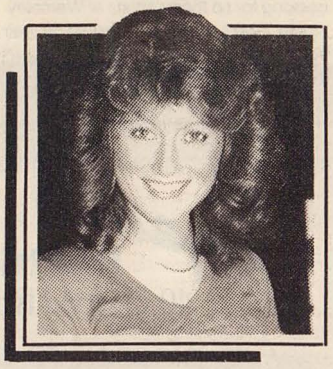
Sunday's entertainment started on time, as it had to – there was just so much good country music to fit in, including 'Hickory Lake', held–over from Saturday's bill, and 'Iona and Andy', slotted–in 'Spellbound' followed by 'Bob Newman & Carole Gordon' made up the rest of the early afternoon bill, which was punctuated by a number of flypasts, by an plane proudly trailing messages to the crowd below.

'Nashville Fever', the Councils National Competition Winners, took the stage – in some style. Four racing saloon cars (on loan from Gates of Harlow), sedately dropped the band off in front of the centre stage. Cllr. Harry Bryant presented the sparkling crystal trophy to the delighted band members, who will surely have to go a long way to receive such a spectacular introduction, greeted with such tumultuous applause.

'Poacher' had the unenviable task of following 'Nashville Fever', but they took it all in their stride, leaving the crowd in an expectant mood for the arrival of 'Rose Marie'. Her appearance on stage brought thunderous applause, and this internationally renowned singer provided a performance that would have raised the roof – if only the Park had one!

But managing to top even Rose Marie's turn was the Festival's Grand Finale, surrounded by secrecy, as a succession of Country Music stars from each of the previous 9 Festivals took to the stage and concluded with a Live Aid style sing–a–long. Council Stewards moved away the barriers, and the audience was invited to crowd round and join in the party, as champagne corks rained down and bubbly flowed.

And amidst this magnificant climax, a special presentation was made by Harlow Council's Leisure Services to Vic Woodhouse, in recognition of his efforts, over the last ten years, not only to ensure the national emergence of the Harlow Festival, but also the continued success of the British Country Music scene.



NEW OAK RIDGE BOY

● Steve Sanders, for five years the rhythm guitar player in the Oak Ridge Boys Band, has been named the new Oak Ridge Boy by fellow members Duane Allen, Joe Bonsall and Richard Sterban....Sanders, 34, replaces 22 year veteran William Lee Golden, who left the country/pop vocal group in March

● According to Duane Allen, the new Oak seems tailor–made for the job. 'Steve's excitement and energy is very contagious. His voice is strong, it blends well with the three of us, and he has vocal strengths that I hadn't realized before'. Allen comments. 'With Steve Sanders as one of us, I know the tradition of Oak Ridge Boys' rich harmonies will not only continue, but take on new variations of sound'. Joe Bonsall and Richard Sterban are also clearly happy with their choice.

● The Oak Ridge Boys will debut their 87' 'Fast Lane' tour at the Universal Amphitheatre in Los Angeles, July 8–9. Steve Sanders is a Georgia native, born in Richland and reared in Macon. He is the eldest of three children and the only one to choose an entertainment career.

● Asked what he feels he brings to the Oak Ridge Boys, Steve Sanders replied: 'Well, for one thing, I'm a blond!' The 5'11", blue eyed baritone also said, 'This is definately a thrill, being asked to join this group. I've known Duane, Joe and Richard for quite a while and I think they're about the best there is, not only as singers and as great stage performers, but they're just real good guys. I feel comfortable with them, but at the same time I'm real anxious about walking out in front of a live audience as an Oak Ridge Boy for the first time. What a compliment to become part of a 40 year old tradition. I want to be part of the success that leads us into a new generation of Oaks music'.

FRONT PORCH UPDATE

● Further details of Del Robinson's Blue Grass event at the Leatherhead Leisure Centre (near the river Mole) on Saturday 11th July gives booked bands as including the Tom Travis Band, Fingers and Co., East Coast Bluegrass Band and of Course Del with his Rocky Island Boys.

● Looking to get back to their roots are London based band "Peace on the Panhandle" with a mixture of bluegrass, cajun and hillbilly. Instrumentation included guitars, fiddle, mandolin, melodian and double bass. The nicely packaged demo tape certainly captures the 'old timey' music feel and the enthusiasm of accoustic music. Gigging on the London area pub circuit they will no doubt attract a cult following for punters also wishing to get back to stylishly presented American roots music.

● American Ken Perliman was the guest at the Leeds Bluegrass Club, displaying mastery of the claw hammer banjo with jigs, reels and Appelation tunes ... The amusing Barnyard Dance on guitar included a smattering of Dill Pickle Rag with other guitar pieces ranging from blues to German Baroque ...

Other contributors to a very packed evening were (three parts of) Strange Relations

... the Tom Travis Ensemble, which included an impromptu slap bass solo from Steve Read and popular resident hosts "Sound in Mind".

● Tours slated for the U.K. in the autumn include the Saw Tooth Mountain Band (from Oregon). Edale goers will recall Steve Waller's informal appearance there last year ...

And from the early days of Blue Grass Jim Eames. Jim, although never recording with Bill Monroe did in fact replace Lester Flatt in the Bluegrass Boys. He also co-wrote (and sold!) the song "Wedding Bells" which later became a hit record for Hank Williams.

News etc ... Eve Morris
18, Powell St. Harrogate.

COUNTRY MUSIC Round Up

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Britain's Best Selling
Country Music publication

COUNTRY MUSIC Round Up

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22/23/24 MAY 1987

K A BIRKINSHAW

● The 2nd Morecambe International Festival of Country Music took place over the May Spring Bank Holiday weekend, (against all the odds after last year's disastrous attempt).
The City councillors took a gamble, presenting this more low key affair, but it paid off with bigger crowds and a tent which did not come tumbling down around the performer's ears. Working to a strict budget mainly British artists were used.

The Friday night welcoming party opened with resident compere, Bob Roberts from BBC Radio Lancashire's 'Countrystyle' introducing Preston based band 'Buckskin' who performed two sets which had the enthusiastic audience clapping along. Pete Sayers and the Dixie Bluebirds also provided two sets which showed the versatility of their leader who played a variety of instruments and styles of Country Music including spirituals and western swing.

● SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Saturday afternoon saw the arrival of the Louisiana Hellraisers who stormed their way on stage. Excellent vocal harmonies were brought to the fore on numbers such as 'Atlanta Burned Again Last Night' and George Strait's 'Nobody in his Right Mind'. They produced one of the rockiest versions of 'Six Days on the Road' that I have ever heard before, encoring with rather early in the day 'American Trilogy'.
In complete contrast the next act performed all self–penned material. It is never easy for a group to keep the audience's attention whilst sticking strictly to their own songs, but The Foster Boys (from Telford) led by songwriter Noel Dillon did just that, with songs like 'Rainbow Man', 'Soldier Blue–Soldier Grey' and 'Battle of Bull Run'...

Liverpool's Paddy Kelly looking fit and well after his recent illness, led the 'Kelly' Band in a mixed bag of songs containing something for everyone.
Key West closed the show, their female lead vocalist showing a distinct feel for Emmylou Harris numbers...the rest of the band were equally at home vocalising or playing instrumental numbers highlighted by fiddle and banjo...

● SATURDAY EVENING

With the tent still filling up for the evening show, Keith Gosling and Durango (from Macclesfield) quickly settled the audience down with some well chosen standards that had the crowd singing along, before Preston band 'Cody's County' augmented by The Conway Bros, (Steve and Martin) took over with more good solid country sounds. They featured two of the Civil War songs contained on their new EP release written by Noel Dillon, which brought the crowd to its feet before the youngest member of the band, Dan Cody's son Shaun, stepped up to the microphone with his cornet to deliver a haunting version of 'IL Silenzio' which went over well with the audience.

● Seudo Hill Billy Comedy relief followed in the form of 'Stone Creek' perhaps a little more subdued than usual on the big stage, but they proved that they really are excellent musicians and harmony singers when performing songs like Dan Folgelberg's 'High Country Snows'...

● The deep Rich voice of Ben Rees with his band of Merseyside musicians finished off the evening. With former Hillsider steelie Ronnie Bennett in top form...Ben produced a set which kept everyone glued to their seats until the end, including his record release 'He went to Paris' and 'So you want to be a Cowboy Singer', one of the tracks from the recent 'UK New Country' album drawing a good acclaim.

● SUNDAY AFTERNOON

A warm sunny Sunday afternoon, greeted Stu Page and Remuda as they opened the final day and gave a performance which has now come to be expected from one of Britain's fastest rising bands. They could do no wrong with this audience and their spot was over all too quickly.

● The only solo artist of the weekend was Jim Ryder from Wrexham but with the aid of a drum machine, which did not detract from his performance, he went straight into the hard hitting 'Willie Waylon and Me' before quietening things down with 'The wind Beneath My Wings'. Peter Rowan's composition 'Hand of the Navajo' had the crowd yelling for more and not many artists would have had the cheek or self confidence to pitch 'Champion the Wonder Horse' and know that the audience would love it?

● Morecambe's favourite sons, White Line Fever were next on stage proving that they are better now, than even they were a few years ago when they provided backing for so many artists at Wembley. Their current single 'She's a Miracle' showed off their versatility before encoring with an uptempo version of Steve Young's 'Seven Bridges Road'...

● The audience had come to sit and listen to each and every act and none more so than the afternoon's top of the bill, Raymond Froggatt. he came on stage after the sort of musical build up that befits any star, which he most certainly now is in British Country. All the old favourites were there 'Roly', 'Teach me Pa', 'Charlie' etc as well as some newer songs including 'Runaway', a story highlighting the plight of young runaway children. All too soon it was time for him to sing 'Always Goodbye' with which he left the audience wanting much more.

● SUNDAY EVENING

Jim Ryder appeared again to open the evening show and got the crowd in the right mood with Pete Ryan's risque comedy number 'The Best Things in Life are Hairy' before giving way to Manson Grant and the Dynamos from Scotland, (Immaculately dressed as ever). Their set of standards was interspersed with numbers like Floyd Cramer's 'On the Rebound' and 'The Gallant Forty–Two' their presentation and unique style delighted the audience.

● Jerry Arhelgar, now a perpetual visitor to this country and his group, St Louis Union, performed the penultimate set of the evening. He included his American hit 'Breaker Breaker Sweet Jesus' and his recent success 'Anna' in his show, as well as giving a heart rending version of 'I Just Started Loving You Today/I Don't Wanna Cry'. An encore of the recent Kenny Rogers hit 'Twenty Years Ago' brought his spot to a close.

● Brendan Shine was perhaps an unusual choice to top the bill at a Country Music Festival, but proved extremely popular as he did at Wembley a few years ago. A mixture of Country N' Irish proved to be a winner with the biggest crowd of the weekend enjoying every minute.

● Songs from the pen of Shag Connors were mixed with hits like the 'Rose of Castlereagh' and all those songs that Wogan used to play on his Radio 2 morning show, including 'Do You Want Your Old Lobby Washed Down'. The crowd loved every minute of this jovial Irishman with boundless energy who never stopped jumping about the stage. His show provided a fitting climax to an exciting weekend for this seaside resort.

There might not have been the Name Imports of last year, but there were certainly far bigger crowds and greater enthusiasm for the event. The thoughts that perhaps even a modest profit might make Morecambe Council look favourably upon entering into a third Festival next year, by which time undoubtedly even more lessons will have been learnt.

DIDN'T IT RAIN

● An unwelcome addition to the bill of fare at two East Midlands open air Festivals last month was rain, rain and more rain. The Golden Buckle CMC, Walesby Nth Notts held their one day in a marquee. Tony Best a'la super compere along with John Aston opened the Show with a superb spot. Ben Steneker, Iona & Andy, Country Company all gave good performances, Johnny Marks (was Jonny Marks) ... Bob McKinley & Dixie Fried literally stopped the show (Bill from Electricity Board is on its way Bob). 'Froggie' & His Band were brilliant, a magic moment when Iona & Andy joined him in "I'm Part Of Your World" which he wrote specially for them. Dave Curtis replaced 'Froggie' for the evening Show which culminated with a typical Tony Best style 'Jam Session' on stage. A success despite the weather, well organised and attended.

● The 2 day Oakerthorpe Drive In Festival at Ufton Fields Farm, Alfreton, Derbyshire had had its best attendance ever for its Saturday Show. However the Sunday show was held against a background of almost continuous rain, great credit to both the artists and fans for not allowing the weather to dampen their enthusiasm. Jeannie & Steppingstone and Gordon Lemondine Duo were terrific, Jon Gill Band entertaining, Ricki Sylva gave his all and 'Froggie' & His Band despite looking ill at ease in the rain provided fans with a good performance. Again a good attendance despite the attrocious weather.

Pete Griffin.

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Round The Regions . .

Ulster Report
by: Richard Dudgeon

● Greta Elkin who has just returned from another very successful three week tour of England asks us to thank the Country Fans for their support and say she's looking forward to seeing everyone again next year.

Greta also advises she's going back to Iowa at the end of August for the 'Ol' Time Country Festival' organized by Bob Everhart. Greta really enjoyed herself the last time she was there, this time she's got an added bonus to the trip for while she was in Blackpool she met up with Bob Everhart who told her she is to appear on the Louisianna Hayride ... also in the pipeline are plans for a possible tour of New Zealand. Her second album for Rainbow Records just released has been long over due but well worth waiting for. The album titled 'The Mocking Bird' RRBA 132 has eleven tracks 'The Singing Waterfall' 'Daddy and Home' 'Don't Be Fooled' 'The Hands I'm Holding Now' 'China Doll' 'I Hear Wedding Bells' 'The Singing Hills' 'I'll Never Take You Back' 'The Echoing Hills' 'Roll On Silvery Moon' 'The Mocking Bird' and one of my favourite Gospel numbers, which Greta handles very well 'The Old Country Church' all in all an album well worth having in your collection if you're a Greta fan.

That's it for this month. The address as usual for your news and views to Richard Dudgeon, 10 Kitchener Street, Belfast BT1L 6LE. or tel (0232) 240415.

Greta Elkin

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Shades of Green
by: Donal K. O'Boyle

* A MIGHTY YEAR FOR HUGO.

County Tyrone singer Hugo Duncan has emerged as Homespun Records favourite recording artist. In the North West Showbiz Award his single "Brady from Strabane" was voted "Single of the Year". Now Homespun Records have presented him with a Gold Disc for sales on this single.

Since the early 70's Hugo Duncan has enjoyed numerous hits with numbers like "Three Leafed Shamrock", and he has enjoyed countless guest spots on various television shows. His albums for Homespun "The Isle Inishfree", "Wedding Song" are just two that have become best sellers ... Now he has a new single just issued "Kitty Daly" (another potential hit.) Hugo Duncan seems likely to collect another.

*AN IMPRESSIVE SINGER

Country songbird Ann Breen has achieved much since she was discovered at a local concert in her native Downpatrick a few years ago. Her single "Pal of My Cradle Days" made the number 65 slot in the British charts, and to date she has issued five excellent albums. Her new single "Divided We Fall" has enjoyed good media with the country music dee-jays throughout the UK. The song was produced by the noted Roberto D'Anova himself. Ann Breen is an extremely talented artist, with her backing band she reflects what's best in Irish Country. So perhaps as oldtimers Susan McCann, Philomena Begley, Margo, Gloria etc. start to fade, it is good that fresh talent such as Ann Breen is ready to take over!

* A STRANGE DECLINE

● A decade ago country bands said if we had local radio in Ireland, country bands would enjoy a boom-time. But with 125 illegal stations now broadcasting the reverse has happened. Irish Record sales have hit an all time low, and names such as Bill Ryan, Ian Corrigan, Brian Harkin, Dermot Hegarty, etc. have retired. It seems that too much media exposure, leaves a lot to be desired, even live country bands report a decline in demand, despite the aid of local radio.

* COUNTRY SOUND TRACKING

Ireland's former Queen of Country Music Margo is back with a new single, "The Violet and The Rose". It's a track from her newly released album "Margo Now" issued by Unicorn Records ... Sean O'Hara a new country name to many has issued "Gem of the Roe" as a single, it's also the title òf his album-cassette ... Cassette release's also, from Irish exile Gary Roberts now based in England "A Single Yellow Rose", ten of his own compositions, some great numbers ... Hugh McLean has released "Irish Favourites" with titles from "The Hitch-Hiker" to "Lady Mary" included ... And country duo "Family from Killarney" have re-issued their "Double Vision" cassette, with tracks like "Walk on By" and "The Other Side of the Morning" included. With the new fad for cassette-singles it could be a major boost to aspiring country acts.

*COUNTRY NEWS IN BRIEF.

● Welcome back to RTE Radio 1's "Keep It Country" host and now with the title Senator Paschal Mooney. The show is still tops for Irish and International sounds.

● While appearing at the Tropicana Hotel, in Atlantic City, New York, aspiring Irish singer Willie McCarthy, was thrilled to see country giant Kenny Rogers in the audience, afterwards Kenny told Willie how much he enjoyed the show, and both had their photo taken together. Willie and his band have been signed up by Failte Records, and has a new single and album awaiting release.

● Wedding bells soon for country songstress Eileen King, we add our congratulations, and wish her and husband the very best of happiness and joy in the years ahead.

● Country names such as Daniel O'Donnell, Sugar Foot, Seamus McGee, Hugo Duncan, Dominic Kirwan, plus many more are booked to appear at the 20th Mary from Dungloe International Festival, in dear old Donegal from July 25th till August 3rd.

Eileen King.

● Good to see a new country name Sean O'Hara has launched his new band The Statesmen, they now are managed by Dennis Curran ... any news Tel: 075-31176.

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Round The Regions . .

Anglia East
by: June Wilson

● This month we welcome two new regional contributors. to add to CMRU's already extensive Nationwide coverage of the local Club scene. Both cover areas. long neglected due to various reasons...However we are pleased to introduce June Wilsons reports from Norfolk & Suffolk. & Pat Wigmore's contribution Thames Valley Country. We wish them every success and hope the clubs in these very strong areas will give them full support.

An impressive line for the Spring Bank Holiday Festival at Northrepps Country Club included: Hickory Lake. Johnny Marks. Jeannie Sinclair & Stateside. the Kelvin Henderson Band and Bob McKinlay & Dixie Fried. Unfortunately I only caught the end of Jeannie's set as I arrived. but I was not particularly impressed. Hickory Lake as always excellent. do they ever fail to please? I feel Bob McKinley wasn't up to his usual form. however. the dance floor soon filled up with dancers as the majority of his material was slow. Then one of the regions favourite singers Johnny Marks sang in his usual fashion for 40 minutes. I confess I usually have to leave the room when he is on...but this time I sat through the whole thing – sorry. never again – this 'nice' young man's act is just not my cup of tea. Kelvin Henderson I enjoyed. though I thought his backing band lacking and somewhat weak compared to his super. strong. voice. I liked his varied choice of material – 'Queen of the Silver Dollar'. 'Rednecks. White Socks and Blue Ribbon Beer'. 'Stay Young'. 'Some Days are Diamonds' and Vince Gill's 'Victim of Life's Circumstances' among others.

I found the Vernon Oxford/Hickory Lake/Bettina evening promoted by Silver Dollar Records at the Talk enjoyable enough. although a little dragged out. with too little dance time. Bettina still has some way to go – her youth and inexperience showed. but she goes some way towards making up for that with dedication and musicianship self taught she now plays guitar. steel. dobro and piano...Hickory Lake played some first class material for the dancers. and after a long wait Vernon Oxford came on. His set was extremely well received. and included: 'Field of Flowers'. 'We Came Awful Close to Sin'. 'Redneck'. 'Old Folks Home' and 'Nobody's Child'.

Vernon Oxford

Bettina

● There are no plans to increase country music 'Air Time' on Radio Broadland. according to a statement recently received from Programme Controller. Mike Stewart. : 'We have no plans at present to increase the hours allocated to country music'. You will. however. be able to enjoy some excellent bands and support acts put on by Radio Broadland at the Wintergardens. Gt. Yarmouth all through the summer season on Thursday nights...

Sheer haste to meet copy date prevents this column from being any longer. any info to me at 64 Branford Road. Norwich. NR3 4QD.

Anglia North West
by: Joe Allen

● If your a Rockabilly fan then there's a good chance you will want to add The River Boys Album "My roof came tumbling down" to your collection, it contains 14 tracks with over half the compilation self penned. The local band consists of John Baitup on Bass, Billy Platt on Drums and Barry Davis, lead guitar with all members on vocals. It can be found on Silicone records No. SLC 002 obtainable from their Fan club, more info. at 78, Hurst Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex.

● There's a fundraising dance on the 4th at St. Andrews Hall Kingsway (Test Tube Babies) Eddie Dawson & the Blue Grass Band will do the entertaining, addmission just £2.00.

● BBC's Radio Northampton's recent 24hour marathon in aid of the Local Kot Scan) & McMillan nurses had raised at press time over £13,000 just part of the activities for fundraising came from an outside Broadcast in Kettering when myself & the Boys played Country Music to the public, also members of the Lone Star C.M.C. were present, adding colour to the occasion and "live on air" they kidnapped one of the station presenters,. Louise Cooper and listeners had to phone in and pledge money to secure her release. All good fun...

● The Lone Star C&W Club recently held their "Flag dedication Evening", which was a great success. This month finds Shenadoah" providing the entertainment.

● Always popular in this region Dick Edward's new cassette is now available, it contains three self penned & co. written songs plus two from Les Voorhees an established writer & producer in the States hence Dick will shortly have an American release called "Those pretty eyes"...

● East Northants based Country Band "Devil on the Loose" were winners of a Talent competition recently held at the Victoria centre, the group consists Louis, Speed, Bass, Ray & Judd Hall, drums and vocals, Steve James rhythm and Rob James lead, they can be seen at the Friendless club in Northampton this month.

● Yet another Country Music festival this one takes place in September in the region of Woodford (Northampton) The organisers will be turning a site completly into a Western Showground for the entire weekend, (more details next month.)

Any details or info of coming events as usual please, nice and early to Joe Allen, 385 Shelley Road, Wellinborough, Northants NN8 3EW.

Dick Edward's

Round The Regions

'NEW'

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Round The Regions

Thames Valley
by: Pat Wigmore

The Thames Valley has for too long been in the wilderness as far as Club reviews. news and gossip is concerned. I hope over the months to rectify this with as many visits as is humanly possible. so before we go any further all you Club organizers out in the Thames Valley and North Hampshire. or wherever you may be running a Country music venue. get in touch. I will need information. dates and who's playing where.

NEW CLUB.....READING being the heart of the Thames Valley is just the place to start my first monthly report. It has been many years since the town has boasted a Country Music Club. Not since the days of the Lower Ship Hotel when Tony Aston. of the Original Shade ran the once a week concert type venue. Today not only has the music changed. but also the concept of the Country Music. so the Club is in for a rude awakening. Well that is the hope of Dave Nelson 210. Country Music DJ and presenter of the American style Honky Tonk at Cavershams nite spot. Where for six nights a week the young ravers of the area are dancing the night away to Disco Music and flashing lights. Then on the seventh. the Lord said 'Thou shalt rest'. A good intention it was too. only no account was taken of the 'Louisiana Hellraisers' (with a name like that I should hardly think so). this band from Scotland were in attendance when I arrived for my first Sunday evening of. quote. 'Genuine American Honky Tonk' unquote. Now. not ever having had the pleasure of a visit to the USA or venues like Gilley's or Billy Bobs or other well publicised Honky Tonks. I am not able to comment on the decor of such venues. My expectations. would I feel be a lot less plush than at Cavershams.

Wall to wall carpet and subdued lighting were more I felt an ideal venue for the traditional concept of a Country Music Club.

The 'Louisiana Hellraisers' are a raunchy. fast moving modern band who have played at many of the clubs in the area. but obviously they have been keeping themselves in check at these their venues. because at 'Cavershams' they were an entirely different outfit. wild and loud is perhaps how best to describe them. One number that had some significance on the night was called 'Knocking on the Door'. well Dave may be doing just that. knocking on the door of a new trend in Country Music Venues. some may even say in specialist club. all I can say is 'good luck Dave' only time will tell...but an encouraging sign is that audiences are on the increase.

●Weyhill Nr. Andover. is perhaps a little way out from the Thames Valley but I could not let an award night at the Rebels C.M.C. go by without making an appearance. Especially when the act being honoured 'Pedro' hail from the Reading area. A trio of exceptional talent who deserve any award that comes their way. The Rebels Den is about as different from the previously mentioned venue as you can get...A village hall that time has left behind. That was until the Rebels got to work on it. A rewiring job then interior decoration all by the enterprising 'Andover Rebels'

A selection of JIM BEAM. and JACK DANIEL'S posters. plus a few Confederate state flags and Civil War memorabilia. and now fifteen months on. the 'Rebel Den' (Weyhill) is a Country Music Club anyone could be pleased to be a member of. All the hard work has paid off

● The H–Bar–C (Wokingham) is my own club. so I shall endeavour to be as objective as possible and bring more the views of the audiences. than my own personal ones. 'Perfect Strangers' the first band of the month. found nerves played a major part in their performance and not until half way through the evening did they settle.
Tony Collins and Bakersfield are a regional based band who give of their best on every occasion and have gained many fans on the local club circuit. Tony's pedigree of many years helps make for an almost flawless performance. apart perhaps from his undoubted ability to break the occasional string.

● Tall Texan and the Honky Tonk Cowboys. are four guys whos ability allows them to hold an audience for the full three sets. A band who make you tap your feet or get up and throw it all about. Which ever you prefer T.T. and the H.T. Cowboys make for great evening's entertainment. I must impart a few words with regard to the clubs fourth anniversary 'Emerald And Sarah Jory'. a superb mixture of talent. played to a capacity audience who made four years of hard but satisfying work such a pleasure.

● News in brief:.....I hear that Kidderminster based band Truckstop have been in the recording studio and come out with a tape entitled 'By Request'. produced by John O'Boyle former member of Cotton Gin. Some good traditional Country music can be expected.
A move in progress. Allan Forsythe. formerly with Spellbound and Hickory Lake. is now with the Stewart Brothers...Talk is that Emerald. (now touring England) will be off to Florida in November.
That's it. number one for the Thames Valley. one of many I hope. but I do need all your club information. band news and points of view. so drop me a line

c/o 6 Catherine Street. Reading. RG3 1DN.
Or Phone 0734 590307

Round The Regions . . .

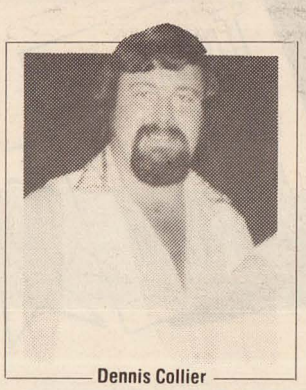
North West
by: Brian Ahern

● The North West is swimming in a sea of country music these days. Venues are springing up all over the region, I am pleased to say... Its making my life as contributor to this publication very hectic and interesting, (not to say near impossible). But if you are involved with a new country music club or venue please feel free to keep me up to date with your activities, because "To know is to Tell", a letter is better because I seem to be spending most of my time on the road away from the telephone. (Address at the foot of this column).

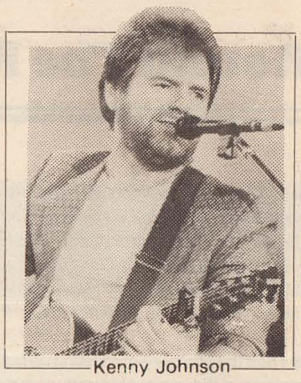
First off I apologise to Merseyside's Barge Records, Iona and Andy, also Silverado CMC for my non-appearance at their record launch. Im pleased your night was a success, mine was a disaster (but I wont dwell on that). thanks to Martin Gray of Silverado CMC for his letter to the Editors in reply to Pat Cowap, he will see that I never implied that he or his committee were jackals, in my reply to this episode in last months column, written and posted without knowledge of his letter.

● I had not seen Yorkshire Country Music Rebels, COLLIER DIXON LINE for quite some time until they appeared at ILFORD FILMS CMC. Nothing had changed with this smashing Yorkshire outfit, still a great credit to country music with their polished country show. The hardest part of the night for me as show compere, was to get them to take a break, with Big Denis, insisting that they had come to play country music and not stand at the bar drinking!

● HIGH PEAK, Country Music Club's 4th annual awards show was a sellout all ticket affair, and it provided a splendid evenings entertainment. The award winners on hand to display their talents, did it in style. Solo Act winner for the fourth consecutive year Johnny Marks offered his usual easy listening show. Group award winners TOP COUNTRY SOUNDS too showed why they are so well respected in their own area... and Big DON KEYWORTH the bands leader is almost a local megastar in the eyes of the Buxton people, but its easy to see why, the man and his band are part of the "Peak Country" heritage and I felt privileged to present the awards for the fourth consecutive year.


Dennis Collier

Tour News:


Kenny Johnson

● When I called into Bredbury CMC for the first time in four months the SHACK BAND were the attraction and the club was comfortably full. I will admit that this band hold favour with me because I like both their stage presence and music, and the enthusiastic crowd brought the best out of them,

● When the HAZEL GROVE and HIGH LANE CMCs combine to put on a special show, one always feels its going to be good because both clubs are so well organised. Their ROMILY FORUM SHOW WAS A belter to say the least. STU PAGE and REMUDA opened with all their usual style. DILLINGER followed with the unique brand of music and humour which is held in high regard in this neck of the woods. Show compere Charlie Teece then raced through the raffle draw before introducing KENNY JOHNSON with NORTHWIND to complete a great night out.

● Organiser Eddie Daniels info's that the reformed Billy Finnigan and Stagecoach Band replace Yellowstone Picnic Band, at the Lyme Park Festival, and I hear Newley wed Terry Hadfield is leaving Stroller to go solo ... Ian Byrnes has reformed his band Nashville UDC ... My old stomping grounds St. Thomas's Club is returning to country but featuring mostly local acts ... I recently saw Pete Elliott's Trio there, enjoyed it too ... Alma from Southport tells of a new club at Waddington Conservative Club, details to follow. Sue Shaw of Stretford CMC info's that all is going well at her club. Running out of space again this month. Info to Brian Ahern. 11 Villdale Ave., Offerton Stockport. SK2 5SQ.

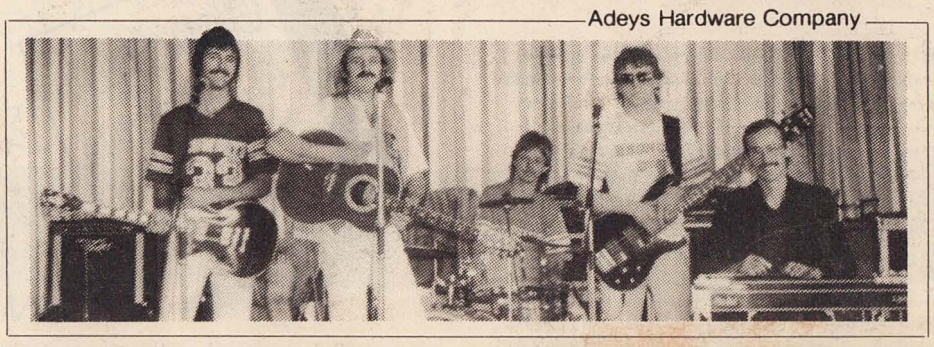
East Midlands
by: Pete Griffin

● Once upon a time long long ago (original ain't it) I believed there was no such thing as a bad Country Music Show, just that some were better than others. While I still have my enthusiasm for the music and remain the eternal optimist, I admit to having become very cynical about some aspects of the scene ... One thing guaranteed to get me steamed up are people who sacrifice the music in order to enhance their own popularity, especially when the people concerned should know better. Sadly Tim Rogers Radio Trents 'Sounds Country' presenter is the latest in my line for criticism ... due to his presentation of the Country Music segment of the Nottingham Festival.

● Sponsored jointly by 'Radio Trent' & 'The Council' the show was held among the stalls & amusements on the Market Square, there was no seating and it was free. The event was billed as a 'Country Music Show' and listed the Artists booked to appear. No prior mention was made of 'fringe activities' such as 'Quick Draws' or 'American Civil War', yet they featured very prominently in the format as did 'Trilogy'. I stood and watched people who had been enthralled with the quality of the music, drift away as soon as the guns started firing ... Yet another opportunity to let the music speak for itself had been devalued, and, instead of the general public talking about the music, they left thinking Guns, Cowboys etc. etc. was the accepted norm and that eveyone involved with the music was an eccentric. The music provided by Carolina, Pete Sayers & The Dixie Bluebirds, St. Louis Union and Jerry Arhelger (U.S.A.) had been excellent, and had gained good audience response. If only Tim Rogers had promoted the music. Not his own ego.

● In contrast, I attended a show at Romily Forum Stockport the previous night, Stu Page & Remuda; Dillinger and Kenny Johnson & Northwind played to a capacity audience with ne'er a gun in sight. The superb performances from all three bands enhanced by the presentation skills of Eddie & Pam of High Lane CMC. Shows like this not only highlight the quality that exists in British Country, they help restore the "faith" of guys like me!

● Adeys Hardware Company and Out Of Hand are very popular regionally & both are constantly championed as the best in the area, both are set to take their brand of music much further afield in the near future. Equally both have the capability to join the elite. I caught up with the reformed (in both senses of the word) Out of Hand at Silver Dollar, CMC (Basford) Social Club, Nottingham. Nick Bunbury/vocals/rhythm guitar, 'Slim' Carter/vocals/lead guitar, Norman Hall/vocals/bass guitar and 'Snake' Adams/drums, turned in a fine performance of 'Outlaw' numbers with a sprinkling of easy on the ear material ... Adeys Hardware Company too (at Maid Marian, Arnold, Notts.) Dave Adey/lead vocals/rhythm guitar/banjo/fiddle, Russ Adey/vocals/lead guitar, Colin Vere/pedal steel, Neil Allen/bass/harmony vocals and Kevin Rodgers/drums, who make up this family based band, covered every aspect of 'Country' from traditional to modern.


Adeys Hardware Company

● Kenny Johnson & Northwind recently picked up 'Band Of The Year' award at Leicester CMC, and came up with a performance to match the occasion ... Stu Page & Remuda (lately award winners in Switzerland, Imagine Stu Yodelling?) put on a show at the Silver Wheel CMC, (Pavilion Long Eaton) that had the audience in ecstasy ... Dillinger's Cabaret Type Show at Gedling Miners Welfare Club went a storm, but Dave McQueen & Buckskin played the same venue to a mixed response? ... I saw the Derbyshire based trio "Bandwagon" entertain (the few) at The Countryman, Kirkby In Ashfield in fine style, Clive Tony & Molly are just beginning to get media notice and deservedly so.

● My first visit to Bourne CMC (The Angel Hotel) found me chatting to organiser Steve Plater who established country here about 12 months ago (Monthly it's now fortnightly). With regulars currently numbering around fifty, Steve reckons he's got a sound base, to build on. Certainly Dillinger and Peter Kane both provided some good entertainment on the night I attended!

● Ruth Kirk has info'ed me "Quicksilver" (a five piece band from Leicestershire) have spent the last 12 months rehearsing, to play venues nationwide. Not having had the opportunity of hearing them for myself as yet, I will have to make do with naming the individuals. Guy Rogers/lead guitar/vocals, Nick Hallam/rhythm guitar/vocals, Mick Cooper/string bass/vocals, Ruth Kirk/fiddle and Dave Miller/steel guitar. Close harmonies from Mick, Nick and Guy, a wide range of material to cater for most tastes is envisaged, all of which sounds very interesting, I look forward to hearing them when they break out of the rehearsal room!

● There's limited tickets available for this months N.G.S. Country Music Spectacular at the Commodore International Hotel Nottingham For more details or news and info etc. Phone (0602) 763065 or write to me c/o 71 Beckley Rd. Broxtowe, Nottingham NG8 6GX

West Midlands
by: Jim Duncan

● Summer means cricket, and my favourite cricket had a ball at Kingswinford this month. Booked into one of the smaller venues that acoustic Roots club uses Sonny Curtis took the place apart, the man says Buddy Holly was good for him so he still features the nostalger spot, loved it,but it was not the highlight of the concert. Supported by Kelvin Henderson, who performed in a manner that matched the occasion,to an audience that was more used to folksy openers at these shows. Curtis was in form with the laid back stories and anecdotes with an audience that responded to each cord and break, picked up a copy of his latest album for the cut 'Listen To The Sound Of The Rain' thats got to be a hit, next year for someone. I felt cheated that he had a band on the album, he didn't need it.

● Good value show, Sonny's set stretched to 2 hours and he stood in that hall for another 1.5 hours signing album sleeves to a very patient queue of punters.

● Wolverhampton Rangers promoted a band from Nottingham called Silver Wheel Express, the name did not register anything and I missed that show. When the Penkridge C.M.C. put them on at Boscomoor Social supported by Shropshire solo Nathan B, I travelled over out of curiosity, when a band kicks into their second set with D.A.C.'s 'Crazy Old Soldiers' and backs it onto Hank Jr's 'Can A Country Boy Survive' are as far the British Club and this scene is concerned something special...The group's average age is 24, the band is only six months old and they have now changed their name to Lazy Dog...with a taste in modern stone country leader Neil Walker has formed a good sound in this outfit...Is it too much for the clubs? or will they breath new life into the scene?

● Barry Rutter is moving on from Blazing Saddles, H. Cain is performing well with Johnny Carter's 'Hurricane Ridge'

● Local nominees for this years Country Music Round Up International Awards, The Most Promising in British Newcomers section, The Foster Boys, (from Telford) have a new feature number, written by Noel Dillon about the young drummer boy on the cover of the Paul Kennerley'White Mansions'album highlighting their drummer, Bish centre stage, with just a snare drum, it stops the show in most clubs. Four London dates for this band netted eighteen more bookings. The band now has a new Ford 'A' series bus for away–days, getting towards their own Silver Eagle a–la Wynette...

● That lady herself, played to a full house at one of the last live country shows at Brum's Odeon Theatre, Froggatt actually played the last country show with 1700 of his own crowd, justifying the Froggatt Brothers decision to go it alone.

Lazy Dog....a taste in modern stone country

● Invited to the Double M at Wimblebury by their new Promotion Consortium. A packed house for a very laid back show by local heroes 'Westwood'.
Double M is now back as one of the top Saturday spots in this area!

● A new Thursday club opens in Norton Canes at the Victoria Club called the Vic CMC, original, opened with Bob Mckinlay and Dixie Fried.

● Another venture got underway very successfully the other side of the region in Newport. Although the British Legion committee seemed slightly shocked by the numbers who turned up.'Rio Grande' were displaying their new peavy mini sound system, do these little cabinets lose a little on full chat??

● June Dillon is leaving the promotion of music at the Circle D Club in Dawley the club is suffering people wise at the moment the venue not lending itself to anything but solo acts.

● Circle 'W' at Tipton entertained Joe Sun for their first Yank act, the room was full and everybody was pleased, they even left room for some dancers to perform, added bonus at the show was provided by Dave Pearson, of the Whiskey Rivers Band. It was his birthday and his 'Strip–a–Gram' a Tina Small swing–a–like, stopped the show – with horror from Roger Humphries.

● Delta Dawn , and Country Style, (more style than country) performed at a charity show at the Mytton and Mermaid assisted by a couple of numbers from Shropshires radio jock Mathew Carr.

● Funny how people go to pack Wolverhampton's Civic Hall for a Red Wedge Party Political show with Wangford and Bragg but any other promoter avoids the place, does 'Neil' know something?

Letters to 148 Warrensway, Woodside. Telford TF7 5QF. Thanks to the lady in Brighton who did just that,or phone 0952 – 583672 don't look it up its ex directory.

Round The Regions . .

Tyne & Wear

by: George Mills

● It is sad to report that two stalwarts of the North–East country music scene, Dave Milner and Kevin Tweddle (Deuce) have decided to break–up their very successful partnership. Dave and Kevin have been together as a duo for two years and previously as members of two very popular bands – Southern Comfort and Diablo

● I had the pleasure of meeting up recently with another stalwart of the regional country music scene 'Slim' West. When he appeared solo a 'country and western night' held at the William IV (Birtley). Slim who is especially into Marty Robbins numbers, certainly pleased the mixed country and non–country audience at this venue

● I note that more and more Hotels – Public Houses in this region are beginning to promote country music some as one–off specials, other as regular events...The Hillheads at Westerhope, (Newcastle) presents duos and solo acts on Wednesdays and a letter from the landlord of The White Swan, (Morpeth), informs me that he is starting his weekly country music night, (Fridays commencing at 8.30 p.m.). Among acts booked for July are Alan Rose, Julie Chisholm...

● The Chuck Wagon CMC continue to meet at the Fleece Inn, (Alnwick) the last Wednesday of the month...The True Grit CMC, (Whitley Bay) have returned to the Berkley Tavern, (near the Spanish City amusement park)...Nashville Fever from Norwich were the guests for the opening night at the new venue. I saw Pete Palmer's Country Express there but was disappointed with their performance, having been impressed by them at the Pontin's Country Music Festival, Hemsby last October.

● On the point of country music festivals, although I was unable to attend the recent event at Haggerston Castle Holiday Camp near Berwick, I'm reliably informed that it failed to meet many peoples expectations with no entertainment during the day for the fans and just one band each night. The highlight of the week was Colorado's performance, but George Hamilton IV I'm told did little to raise the spirits of a rain–drenched audience?!

● Still in Berwick, Margaret Trotter's report is, her club were treated to a good night of 'Irish' country music from Anne Breen and her band. Margaret also reports that despite some sound problems at the beginning the whole outfit were very professional. As Anne performed the songs of Janie Fricke, Linda Ronstandt and Emmylou Harris plus those popular Irish country songs...In August the Border CMC present the very popular Carlton Moody and the Moody Brothers.

● It was nice to meet up again with another old friend back on the country music circuit after an absence of some years, Mary T. Rose and her band. Her performance at the Gunfighters CMC proved that she had lost none of her old magic as she entertained her audience with a mixture of old and new songs.

● I was disappointed not to attend the show at Ashington Leisure Centre (unforseen circumstances) but I'm reliably informed that Colorado were their usual high–class selves whilst Rose–Marie (backed by our own Moat Brothers) was absolutely brilliant...Thats it, apart from saying congratulations to Frank & Denise Sanderson of the Gunfighters CMC on their recent marriage...Hope to see you all at Gypsies Green Stadium July 11th and 12th for the seventh annual Country Jamboree. Meantime dont forget your local news, views, comments, etc. for this column should be sent to me.
15 Coatsworth Court, Bensham, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, NE8 1QR. Or you can telephone, (091) 4781885

Anne Breen

Cleveland & Durham

by: Keith Render

● CLUB CALL...I joined Jimmy and Sheila Burns at Hartlepool's Camerons Club to enjoy Ben Rees Band winding up their tour in impressive style. Jimmy also enjoyed the Tony Andrews Raincheck show at Camerons, but reports, Cleveland Valley have lots to learn.
Bobby and Nashville Pride played at a packed Iona Club, where the extra vocals of Dan Cassidy and young Sarah complimented Bobbie very well. Another full house for the return of the highly rated Shack Band, who included several excellent self penned songs...I note Hartlepools Headlands Club now meets every Thursday. Nashville Fever being among recent visitors

● The once highly popular Alamo C.M.C. re–opened it's doors a week earlier than planned with Stu Page and Remuda sounding superb in the splendid settings of the Normanby Hotels functions room and the disappointing turn out should soon be increased, once news gets around, the late bar too is an added bonus.
It was standing room only, when Jolene and Barry presented their entertaining style of country for an appreciative audience at the Loftus Cricket Club, where Organizers Colin and Alma Bainbridge, now reap the attendance rewards, their efforts deserve.

● British country music super–star, Raymond Froggatt and his band recently played three shows in this area, (two of which were for charity). The first show at Gateshead Leisure Centre lacked good support probably due to the fact that he was appearing at two other local venues in the same week–end, but Jennifer Robson reports that the second charity show at the Penshaw W.M. Club was a 'sell–out', Froggy presented a leather jacket to Evelyn Green, wife of John Green, who promoted this tour. The Iona Club, (Hebburn) too was filled to capacity. But I Believe is there a danger of Froggy becoming over–exposed in this area?

● Following up last months adverse comments on the 'order' of Guisboro. Qouits Club, the volume of casual conversation during the visit of Stu Page and Remuda, prompted my early departure. The committee fortunately showed enough concern over the resultant drop in attendances and things greatly improved for the visit of Tony Andrews (with Raincheck), who's developed into a fine entertainer, surrounding himself with some talented muso's producing a nice tight sound, well controlled by mixer Andrew Czainski. A well thought out programme to highlight Tonys dexterity on varied instruments, but for a band with so much potential, I would have preferred to hear more adventurous material, than the run of the mill stuff churned out!?

● Further improved order (and attendance) greeted the arrival of Britains currently most glamourous country group, 'Indigo Lady'. Featuring Ingrid Bromley, drums: Carey Lord, bass: Helen Burns, Keyboard: Ann Scambler, lead and very expressive lead vocalist Sally Looker. It was foot tapping stuff all the way from this very raunchy all girl outfit, Sally's sexy version of Conway Twitty's 'Slow Hand' my pick of the opening set. Their dynamic last spot was certainly not for the faint hearted. Very uptempo. versions of 'The Race Is On', 'Rocky Top', 'Driving My Life Away' and 'Tulsa Time' that had the dance floor heaving. Different yes, but very enjoyable and entertaining. A pleasant contrast was provided by the 'Andrews Brothers', including Barry Fenwick on lead. (Their blend of older songs are to be found on their latest cassette, available from the lads at gigs).

● Organizers Tom and Betty Emery were disappointed with the turn out for Vernon Oxford and Hickory Lake at Lanchesters 'Outlaw' C.M.C. 'You try your best' says Betty.' but just what do country fans want in this region??

● Musically, probably as good an act as any.... was the verdict on Liverpools Hank Walters and The Dusty Road Ramblers, at Barnard Castles, 'Go Country' C.M.C. Stage presentation however let their good performance down...

● Nashville Fever who are virtual residents in the N/East these days, overcame early sound problems to give another very satisfactory showing at Middlesbro's (well full) Cycling Club. This progressive Norwich based outfit must be well to the forefront of British bands when it comes to original material.

● A large crowd at Kirklevington Country Club enjoyed an outstanding evening of comedy and bluegrass music from the highly talented Duffy Brothers.

● Excellent backing for Gerry Ford from the new look Duke Boys, Allan Dalton, bass; Kev Blake, Lead; Gordon Reid, rhythm; evergreen Nigel Slater, drums and lead vocalist Ricky Garton, at Middlesbro's Dormans Athletic Club. Combining a fine selection of standards with lesser known numbers, delivered in a very relaxed, laid back manner, Gerry gauged the moods of the audience to perfection, so that the vast majority of the large crowd went home happy.

● On my first look at Scotlands Mike Devine (Marskes Zetland Hotel) his original and more familiar songs, had the crowd on his side, the sing alongs of 'Your Cheating Heart' and 'Nobodys Child' in particular...Kellys Country, Glen Daniels and Art Marshall also enjoyed excellent order in this small venue.

● Iona and Andys clear cut harmonies enthralled the patrons at Crooks Farrahs Arms but their appearence at Bishop Aucklands (Link Leisure Centre) was marred by unbelievable crowd scenes. The local constabulary being called to deal with a gang of chanting soccer style yobs that society seems to be breeding in increasing numbers these days, and again later to deal with members of both sexes brawling all over the place. A frightening experience by any standards, definitely a venue for civilized folk to steer clear of. Around the region briefly, Seaton Carews, was well attended for the Key West, Manson Grant and the Dynamos show...Ashington Leisure Centre featured a great line up of country with Colorado, Rose Marie and the Moat Brothers recently...Burton on Trent's J.D. Band have toured the N.East this month with Tony Dallas on lead and Richard Fairbrother, drums...and Slim Wests former lead guitarist Stan Sawyer is currently with Bob McKinlays Dixie Fried...Art Marshall is to follow up his debut cassette with a new release this month, far more emphasis on the production side says Art...finally, a nice touch to finish on, hear Froggy presented Ellen and John Green with a beautiful leather jacket

News and views to:- 21 Scanbeck Drive, Marske-by-Sea, Redcar, Tel. 0642 476509

North East

by: Eve Morris

● Now having a regular Monday night established at the Winning Post in York the Honky Tonk Hobos presented two stunning guests, namely Bath based blues man Keith Brown and Texan singer songwriter Butch Hancock. The Hobos, comprising Chris/vocals, Guitar and keyboards, Phil/mandolin and bass, Bob/pedal steel and drums and Dave, looking almost more like Dwight Yoakam than the man himself, vocals lead guitar, banjo and fiddle.

● Always good mixture of music from the band with material from the likes of Guy Clark and Steve Young much appreciated by the audience.

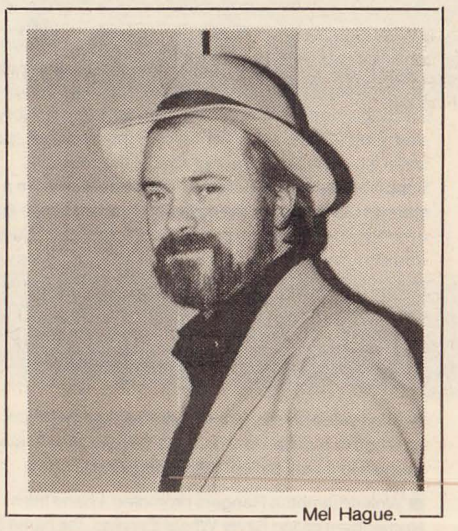
● Bath based Kevin Brown is almost a legend amongst blues fans since his Cambridge folk festival appearance a few years ago which had two thousand people shouting and stamping to their feet in enthusiasm. A superb solo performance with his bottle neck guitar playing, really hitting the spot, both on his own numbers and the more often heard Robert Johnson selection.

● Every so often I'm quite amazed at the people I've missed in country music. With the appearance of Butch Hancock I can only wonder why it took me so long to check out a name that consistantly appears in the writing credits of so many albums. One of his earliest recordings was in the late '70's as part of the Flatlanders on the album 'One Road More' with Joe Ely and Jimmy Gilmore, both of whom have stamped their individuality on Texas music... A spellbinding high energy performance from this man starting with the first line of his opening number 'Fools Fall in Love' to the last notes of 'Not The Water'.

● On fine form at the Harrogate C.M. Club (now based at the football club) was John Aston. Among featured songs were George Strait's 'The Chair', a Don Gibson medley and a new self written number 'Memories Last Longer than Tears' which is to be available on his latest cassette... I note that former 'Shot Gunn' member Mike Abbott, has teamed up with Don Binns and Bill Sykes under the name of Black Top and are playing The Regent, Regent Street, Leeds every Monday...

● News of events in the region comes courtesy of "Country Disc Player" Ken Hawksley who always has his ear to the ground in S. Yorks... Did you know .... The Manor Hotel at Maltby, nr Rotherham has resumed its Friday nights, (they kicked off by award winner Mel Hague.) Also in the Rotherham area are Swinton Victoria Club is running Sundays and Bramley Social Club has Country Nights on a Thursday. Bramley being a slightly larger venue it does tend to have quite a fair spread of both visiting and local bands.

John Aston.



Mel Hague.

● In Doncaster, the Hexthorpe WMC has reopened to country on Wednesdays. A small venue but their hoping to attract better support than at its last attempt. Also in Doncaster, 'The Drum' (Bentley) feature (every Monday) Pat and Roger Johns with a selection of their friends... Clints Collection are now the resident band at the Ivanhoe (Mondays)... Spotborough Parish Club is promoting country every Thursday... Outside Doncaster is the Branton Club (Sundays) with Rossington Labour Club, noted as a popular venue running Mondays... Barnbrough WMC books country on Saturdays. Looking for more support are the Edlington WMC (Tuesdays) and Stainford Democratic Club (Wednesdays). News also... The Little John (at Bradbury) Huddersfield has been refurbished and now stages country music every Thursday. Bettina was the first act booked to perform, Big "Ken Hawksley" is resident D.J. Compere.

Chatter and news 18 Powell Street, Harrogate HG1 4BY

Round The Regions . .

South Wales
by: Frank Power

● When I heard that the Foster Boys were coming to town, July '87 I went along to renew acquaintances. I'm glad I did, as they were "Even Better" than when I last saw them. Their self penned confederate concept was excellent, an early return has been arranged for the group.

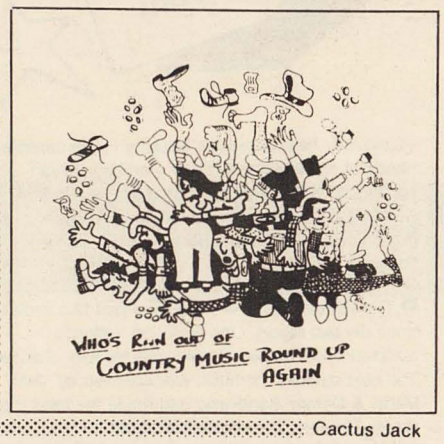
● Buckboard (making another of their visits to the OK), sang a lovely "You Make Me Feel Like A Man", but, in general, I can't enthuse about this group, or their material, but I'm in the minority as they are always welcomed here abouts. A change in line up has made little difference, and here's an interesting point, they recently tried to change their material, only to be told that they should stick to their old repertoire (seems you can't win).

● "If Heaven ain't a Lot Like Dixie" is a motto Cactus Jack brought to the OK Club. I also liked their "In a Little Border Town". A fiddle/banjo duet brought them a standing ovation from the audience (steady Andy) who greatly appreciated their instrumentals. A lively five piece, I recommend them to anyone who wants a good, solid, entertaining country music band.

● Tony Hill was suffering from "Cactus Down His Y-Fronts" at the Wentloog Castle, St. Mellons, Nr. Cardiff, but managed to find some pluck to carry on. His re-write version of "D.I.V.O.R.C.E." is unprintable, but well worth listening to.

● The Plough Inn, Aberaman, Nr. Aberdare, hosts the Silver Dollar CMC on Thursday nights, and although country music has been promoted here for some time, it is now officially to open as a CM venue. On my recent visit, Glen Denver from the Swansea area took us "South of the Border", and also offered a fascinating "San Miguel". Some of his Slim Whitman numbers are nicely done, and his presentation is spot on. His friend Don guested with "High Noon".

● Not posing as a country outfit, but as a Folk band, Talon obliged with a nifty version of "The Pleasure and the Pain". Shame they aren't country, as they have all the ingredients, sound and, instruments, to do the job. This gig was at the Lodge, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, where local Ex-Radio presenter, Mike Greatrex sometimes does his country routine.



Cactus Jack

● Western World, the New "Fantasy" Holiday complex at Blaenrhondda, kicked off their country music shows with "Whiskey River", on their 900 capacity hall. Complete with Jailhouse, and authentic looking Texas trading posts complete with real live Sheriff etc., I gather that a lot more work at the project has been completed since my visit the day before they opened, although I hear Stuart Christian had to sweep the stage before he could appear there recently, but I suppose everything takes time.

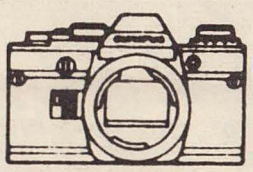
● The Tammy Wynette Tour, appeared at St. David's Hall, Cardiff and after a good prelude from first Poacher, then The Dukes of Country, her backing band. Tammy Wynette, showed her versatility with the up-tempo "Rocky Top" through to "D.I.V.O.R.C.E." etc., and nearly revealed her hidden talents, but for the quick intervention of Sue Richards, who struggled from behind to fasten an undone clasp, with Tammy in full song (Sue, one of the two backing vocalist, offered a nice number on her own account, "Good Old Days"). With her 8 strong band and vocalist backing, Tammy gave the inevitable "Stand by your Man", once if not still, the biggest ever selling country single but my pick of the night was "I don't want to play house".

Trail time again folks, so I'll round up my star spot of the month, "Soldier Grey" from the Foster boys at the OK CMC Newport.

If you've info to tell, Give me a bell.

Frank Power, 1 Alma Road, Roath, Cardiff CF2 5BD. Tel. 492021

photographs



credited to Jim Silverthorn can be obtained by writing to:-

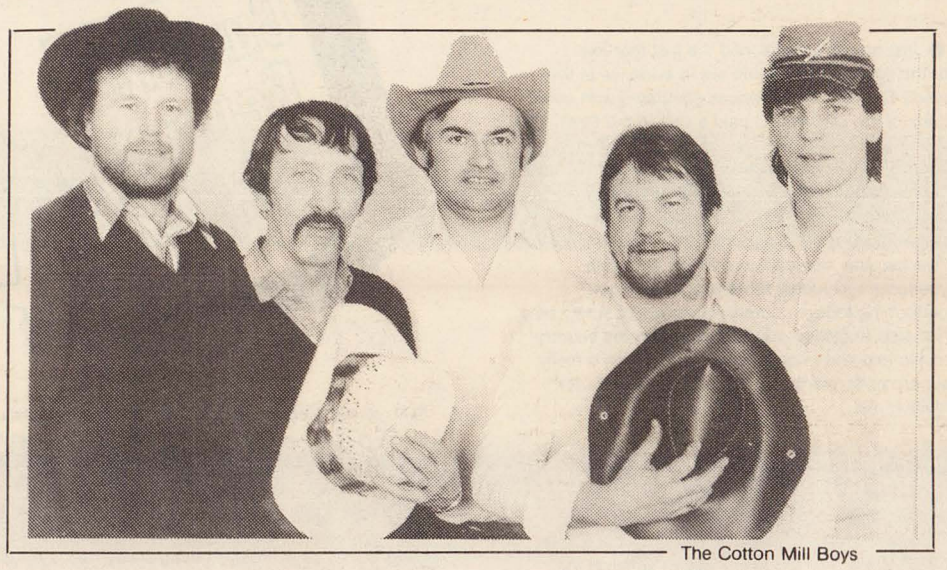
'Photo File
(Dept. CMRU)
11 Fry's Hill, Kingswood,
Bristol, BS15 4QJ.

North Wales
by: Tony Coates

● Shaun Michael was the latest Irish artiste to make an impressive debut in the North Wales area, when he packed them in to the Scimitar, Holyhead, and the Cefn Glas, Llanfechell ... Both these C & W Clubs have had first hand experience of the quality acts introduced by Maldi Jones, so it came as no surprise that both gigs were well supported.

● I caught up with Shaun at the Legion Club, Holyhead, but extreme weather conditions had restricted attendance somewhat, but I was impressed with his 'you name it-I'll sing it' repertoire. His laid-back delivery supplemented with a keen sense of humour went down well with the audience, and I'm sure it won't be long before Shaun is back playing in the area!

● A parting of the ways for Nashville Blues after only six months during which time they have established a good following in the North West Wales area. Vivacious Linda Williams is leaving the trio for personal reasons giving Richard and Eric the unenvious task of finding a suitable replacement and Linda tells me that she will be back after summer with her own act.


The Cotton Mill Boys

● Montana Blue now have their second cassette "Angels and Lovers" available, it's sure to be in great demand locally as they start another summer season of Fridays at the Glan Gwna Caravan Park, near Caernarfon, and alternative Wednesdays at the Padarn Lake Hotel, Llanberis ... This talented North Wales' duo were recently added to the show featuring The Cotton Mill Boys in Holyhead at the Leisure Island Festival.

● Bethesda C & W Club returned to their established formula with big favourites Tony-ac-Aloma sharing the stage with Montana Blue. Audiences have been the problem at this imaginative venture, as local country fans have not supported its enterprising organisers. No doubt some condemn the choice of Wales' leading Welsh language singers, Tony ac Aloma, despite the fact that the duo identify strongly with country music. I certainly enjoyed their spot the last time they graced the club.

Maintaining local interests news depends on the imformation supplied, so if you've any news from the N. Wales area drop me a line, Tony Coates, c/o 220 High Street, Bangor LL57 1NY.

Avon Calling
by: Jim Silverthorn

● Went along to the Bung, Lulsgate the other night to see contemporary singer/songwriter from Texas Butch Hancock. Butch who first came to prominence with the Flatlanders in the early 70's and then had his songs heavily featured by Joe Ely, kept a musically aware audience rivotted for over an hour with mostly his own material plus the odd Towns van Zandt and Guy Clark song.

● Ably supported by Bath based slide guitar player & blues singer extraordinaire Kevin Brown, the evening was nicely balanced by Kelvin Henderson, known throughout the British Isles & Europe but who was making all too rare appearance playing with his band in his home town of Bristol. This four piece combo featuring the Radio Bristol D.J. on lead vocals and rhythm guitar readily answers the questions that are often posed about the integrity and talent of British country bands in the 80's. For me a surperb show, well done to all.

● The report from Tony Griffith's Fry's Club says, 'For the first time this year the show was not a complete sell–out'. However the show featuring a newcomer to Fry's solo singer Glenn Jackson, 'was super'. Topping the bill were probably one of the best trios in the country, Manson Grant & the Dynamos, their sound was simply terrific. They have always been well received at Fry's and deservedly so.

Isa McIsaac from Continental Divide C.M.C. tells they had the 'one and only' 'Nashville Fever' entertaining there and they provided 'a great night of country music in their own style'. Another 'treat' came from 'Linda & Arthur James' they travelled down for one night only from Leicester...'what a voice that lady has, rich and strong' with Husband Arthur on the steel guitar they were 'treated to some lovely songs', and it seems certainly they will return to this club.

Glenn Jackson.

Butch Hancock.

Round The Regions . .

● My regular report from Swindons Silver Spur C.M.C. reads 'we had a marvellous night with the club full well before the start' and apparently the ever welcome Bromford Country ment all had a most enjoyable night...Later in the month local group Cotton Blend provided the entertainment.

● I received a letter from Karen Trenoweth who informed me that Parbola Country are no longer together as Sharron is having a baby and has decided to give up. But I understand Mike and Martin are going on with a new member. A great night was had at the Public Rooms in Bodmin with Johnny Spencer, Mr Sticks and Parbola Country.

That's the reports for this month, if you have something to say why not drop it into the post 11 Fry's Hill, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 4QJ. Tel 0272 671067

● **'Photos by** Jim Silverthorn

Round The Regions . .

Border Counties

by: Sheila Kenny

● The regions first festival of the season was held at Park Hall, Wormelow, Nr. Hereford and quite a headache it turned out to be for organiser 'Casey Jones'! His headline acts with-drawing just two weeks before the event, but after a lot of chasing about and a lot of phoning Casey put together quite a line up with Yorkshire favourites 'Spill the Beans' topping the bill. Local band 'Coopers Country', the Gamblers (from Bristol) & a new band Dixie Highway' completed the line up. Cooper Country opened with a fine set ... the Gamblers worked hard without getting much help from the sound crew.

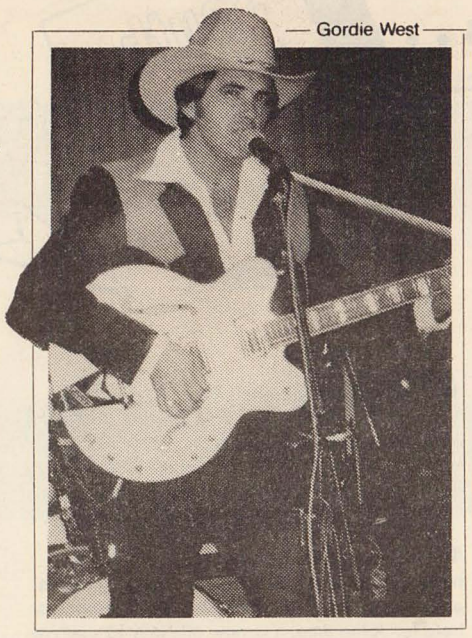
● Spill the Beans performed two brilliant sets with all the acclaim this act is getting these days what else is there to say about them, but I do know you have to go a long way to find three nicer people in our business!

● I enjoyed "Dixie Highway's couple of sessions all in all it was a pretty good night out well held together by Casey Jones ... It was a great pity that it took the sound crew most of the show to realise that the crowd did not suffer with bad hearing!!

● The new name on the Wormelow Bill 'Dixie Highway' is a name that won't gain much fame as it's now changed to 'Kelly's Heroes'. The new band will be fronted by Oxford based 'Kris Kelly' & this young lady has placed her backing in the capable hands of ex-Hamiltons Power members 'Bryan McDonald' & 'Danny Power' plus steelie 'Selwyn Reed' who also happens to be quite handy with a fiddle, last but not least 'Ian Woods' on guitar & vocals.

● The Pershore C & W Club have had two shows since my last report. One featuring Telford's 'Saddletramps' helped boost funds for four charities. The next clubnight's music was supplied by 'Jean Marie' & Denver Band who had made the long trip across Country from Great Yarmouth for their first appearance in the region but from the reception they got I'm sure it won't be their last!

● The Morton Lodge Hotel, Nr. Oswestry has staged country shows twice a week for quite a while and seem to be pretty popular with local fans ... Big



Gordie West

Jim Reynolds, Andy & Dave and Eddie Windsor are some of the acts which have played the venue lately

● Scottish duo Jolene & Barry have lately completed a ten day tour of the Welsh Border counties, apparently drawing large crowds & great receptions at most venues. Among them the Hereford United Club, The Nelson Inn, Turkey Hall, The Wild West CMC & Cannock CMC

● The enterprising Derbyshire based solo singer Paul Rogers too has been with us for a tour his second of this area this year. Covering about fourteen venues he got a good reception and return bookings at most venues which can't be bad.

● Now a big date in the Regions Calendar of attractions is 'Mid-Wales Stampede'. This was held on the lovely but heavily rain soaked riverside site in Newtown, but fortunately the supporting country music shows were at the Hafren Theatre, and a couple of hotels in the town ... Tammy Cline & the Southern Comfort band, Jim Ryder, Iona & Andy, Keith Manifold, Andy & Dave, Eddie Windsor were the major acts supplying some great music. It was left to the Gordie West duo with the help of Slim Pickens on steel & fiddle keep the fans happy on the showground ... Gordie was also there in his regular capacity as official Cowboy of the Canadian Calgary stampede. The stampedes official mascot & 'Harvey the Horse' was also there & usually on stage for Gordies shows!

● Hereford's Richmond club had the chance to see Steve Knight's Country Band on stage for this months show when the Bristol based band were paying their first visit to the Club. Any news please to Sheila Kenny, Sansheleam, Lingen, Bucknell, Salop SY7 0DY or Tel: 0544-267736

Cumbria Report

by: Larry Drummond

● last month I mentioned the fact that few of the younger generation are in evidence at the area's Country Music venues compared with other parts of the U.K. Well, I paid a visit to the Pirelli Club in Carlisle where John Lamont has managed to get country music re-introduced on an occasional basis. The audience was a mixture of country fans and ordinary club members of whom a sizeable percentage were younger people. The guest act was Poacher and they captured all the audience, youngsters included. More exposure to acts performing todays country music would surely be a first step to getting young people into the country music fold and I congratulate Poacher on a really superb performance ... Thanks also to John for inviting me!

Before moving on I must say this venue illustrates something about all the Cumbrian Social Clubs I have visited since moving into the region, and that is that members are willing to pay realistic door charges and give excellent order while the artistes are on stage. For too many years I suffered the North-East Clubs where 50p was an expensive charge and the audience used the Acts as Muzak while they talked, shouted, and generally had a whale of a time, much to the annoyance of the music fans who wanted to listen. But I digress (as usual).

● Congratulations to the Sands Centre at Carlisle for putting on the Hank Wangford Show. But publicity was poor and the attendance not impressive. For some obscure reason, I had never previously seen Hank Wangford on stage although I do have a couple of his albums which I enjoy. Quite simply, I loved the show and Wangford has my vote as "The Clown Prince of British Country Music".

O.K., all the "sincere" bit may get up some people's sensitive nostrels, I assume they do it. To send up all the overseas grovellers who continually tell their audiences how "wunnerful y'all are", "ah shore do appreciate it", all the drivel which turns the stomach inside out and back again ... By doing the same thing but by so obviously taking it way over the top, Wangford & The Band do a "jest wunnerful" job of exposing it for the rubbish which it mainly is. That apart, I found them hugely entertaining, musically. Oh - and did you know!! That Nepal's top country act is the Dalai Lama Jr and his band the Sacred Cowboys? Well - Hank said so, and would you disbelieve his sincerity? Yes!!

● The Wangford Show fell on the same evening as Workington B.L.'s monthly get together where a full house - not usual at this excellent venue - I'm informed enjoyed Les Close's Country Band and the duo Montana Blue. My informant was particularly enthusiastic about the latter ... so I shall look out for them in the future.

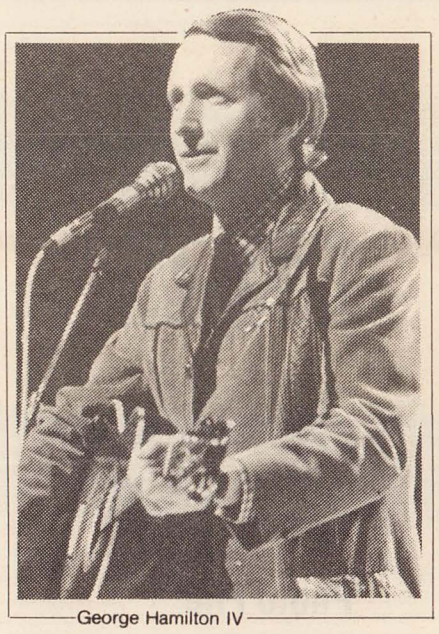
● 19 people only turned up for the visit of Armadillo to Kirkbride's White Heather Hotel. Numbered among them were a busload of about a dozen from Clifton B.L. who were sufficiently impressed to offer the band a booking at their club.

● Talking of Clifton B.L., their last show featured popular local act, Key West, who again went down very well with this audience ... Returning to the Sands Centre at Carlisle (this column has a mind of its own), two days after Wangford saw an appearance by George Hamilton IV supported, I'm told, by one of my favourite British Bands, the highly talented Pinkertons Colours. I wish I'd known they were appearing for I'd have trotted through and seen them. Reports are of another half empty (or half full whichever you prefer) auditorium and some complaints that George IV did too many folk songs. You can't please everybody?!

PRESENTS

● A forthcoming attraction now brought to my attention includes the Everly Brothers (probably sold out already). If not there's a charity show at Botcherby, Carlisle, featuring Johnny Marks on August 21st.

In closing, my thanks once again to Enid Thompson for her valued assistance in raking up info for this column. All your news, views, and - as ever - abuse to me, Larry Drummond, at "Western Moor", causewayhead, Silloth, Cumbria CA5 4PE (tel. 0965 - 31137) any enquiries re: Pointer Pups due July 2nd also welcomed!!



George Hamilton IV

Round The Regions . .

London Scene

by: Tony Anderson

● Recently I went to the Outlaw, CMC run by Adrian & Maurice Sundin. I timed my visit to coincide with the appearance of George Moody's Country Squires. This was my first impression of the "new" George Moody image. Better than before? With former Vegas and Campbells Country, Dave Anderson in the line up, a newer type of material is being played, although many of the old favourites remain. The "Squire" of British Country seems to have got the '87 mix just right giving each audience just what it wants. Well done George I liked the new approach.

● My visits this month round took me down memory lane a little when I noticed that Pinto were playing at the Virginian club, this Trio who officially disbanded a couple of years back, it seems regroup for the occasional gig. They were on stage when I arrived and my immediate feeling was that the boys had never left it. Great to hear their relaxed sounds again including some new material from the prolific pen of Ted even through he was accompanied by (Two Left Feet).

● Vernon Oxford's recent tour of the club's put in an appearance at Tony and Brian's Peak Frean Club, with Hickory Lake. I watched (Grandad) Tony Morris's smile grow bigger, as the night progressed, it was also nice to see (grandma) Sandy looking well again. I have never heard the sound in this club as good. It was a night that club members will remember with happy memories.

● Seven days later I was back at Peak Freans as I had promised Freddy Jameson that I would look in and appraise the new line up of Convoy. I now understand why this group are filling in many dates in their diary, Freddy has that knack of "programming" his evenings. The current format now includes some of his own original material. (Incidentally George Moody professed to have an ambition to compile and record an album of British material recently).

● John & Jennie's S.T.C. Club I have visited on several occasions, so I knew on my way there that another warm welcome would be forthcoming. When I went to see the Dave Keen Country Band. Dave and the boys provided just what this and a host of clubs that book them for ... solid country entertainment.

● Another Dave, was playing recently on my visit to the Cheyenne Club ... Dave Lord with Country Gold, who I last saw at Kodak "Exposure" last year. Country Gold is yet another of our local groups who have the ability to produce a laid back performance. I understand all was not smooth running during their recent continental trip. Incidentally Harry Howarth who has held the reins at the Cheyenne over the past couple of years has handed over the club to Ken and Brenda O'Connell two faces well known in the East London haunts of country.

● It was great, on a visit to the Ghost Riders club a couple of weeks back to meet up with old buddy Tom Strath, now looking fit and well following his recent illness, why he was even up on the floor dancing with Eileen on a couple of occasions. Bandana Country were the group playing that night, I had not seen them before but on this showing would recommend them to any dancing club as a group that produce the goods, featuring Phil Redman, lead/vocs; Bryan Antony, rhythm/vocs; Pete Wisby, lead/steel; Dave Whickham, bass; and Jimmy Bishop on drums, with an extremely mixed repetoire the lads entertained all present and had the extremely ebullant Tom Strath laughing and joking like I remember him of old.

● Alan Woodhouse runs an extremely successful country music club on Canvey Island. The week prior to my visit in excess of 350 people turned up on a monday evening. But Alan is the first to draw attention to the help and assistance given him by his wife Pam and another young lady by the name of Rose ... (so many clubs have unsung heroes or heroines, beavering away in the background without recognition, or reward, perhaps it would be nice if just occasionally others gave them some plaudits) ... The Mustang CMC meets weekly in what can only be described as extensive surroundings, I could reel off many local clubs that could be accomodated together in their arena, so obviously it needs a large attendance to create atmosphere. On the night of my visit yet another group new to me were playing, having seen that they had appeared at a host of other clubs I thought perhaps it was time I caught up with them. It was actually their second visit to this club in the space of a couple of weeks. (they had stood in at the last moment for the Stewart Bros & First Chapter). Just simply called Hawk, this trio kept the large dance floor adequately filled all evening, even while their alter-ego the Hawk Sisters performed the second set of the evening, (a nice twist this) with the three lads "dragging" up a bluegrassy type sound ... Dates for July at the club include the very first Club reappearance of Jenny Speller with a full programme backed by Alberta. Great to welcome back this formerly well acclaimed songthrush. On the 27th the club will be closed (for a lick of paint).

ODDS & SOLUABLES

Western Sunset may be a name new to you but watch out for it soon, it's a bunch of muso's new to country but if enthusiasm is anything they should be good??? ... Blue Moon is the new name of the ex Showboat Country Band, seems like there were "rudder" problems. Finally hope Dave Smiler of Five Wheel Drive has left his crutches behind as I know I've given him some "stick" over the years but get back on your feet mate cos Country Aerobics ain't the same without you ... Send all your news and info to 40, Cole Close, Thamesmead, London, SE28 8AU or tel 01 310 2792. Country Rools O.K.

Round The Regions . . .

Highland Country
by: Ann Carmody

● At the time of writing one question predominates my mind ... "Is the number of people on the dance floor any reflection on the quality of the band on stage?". My personal answer to this is an emphatic "NO", but trying to bring this home to many of the so-called country music fans I find a near impossible task. Every time this situation arises I find it is when there is a band which in my opinion is a cut above average on stage. The latest victims of this moan "we can't dance to them" was the Louisiana Hellraisers, but on a happier note there were enough discerning people around to appreciate this excellent four piece and make their week's tour of the Highlands worth-while.

● Once again I thoroughly enjoyed an evening with Colorado, who really sparkle nowadays. Some of the punters would like to see them take their beige suits (complete with flared trousers) out of mothballs, heaven forbid that this would happen, visually I think they now look very interesting ... even Dado's hairy chest!! Clovis Country spent a very successful two weeks in the North, with only one small hic-up being a mis-understanding regarding arrangements at Nairn C & W Club. The two line up changes have detracted nothing, if anything I would say their sound is more mellow than previously. Their October tour is sold out so that speaks for itself ... Joe Sadio paid a brief visit on his way to Orkney, and was well received. A lot of his chat reminded me of Tony Best, that can't be bad.

● Of the many demo tapes I receive, one I feel deserves a mention. It's by a young man named Darren "B". The production of the tape is poor, but Darren's voice makes you listen again, it's most distinctive I look forward to hearing more in the future if he intends going into music full-time.

● I recently had the opportunity to hear the "new" four piece Gambler, and enjoyed their show very much, on this their fifth public appearance together they covered a wide variety of material. Scheduled for BBC Radio 2's "Country Club" on Thursdays late July/early August, are Manson Grant & The Dynamos, Lorraine Summers, Colorado, Amy Collins, Bill Torrance and Ann Williamson. The session band will be Moonshine and they will be introduced by Gerry Ford who will hopefully be doing a spot of his own. Be sure to tune in and give the Scottish artists the support, and who knows maybe if the listening figures rocket we shall hear more of our home grown talent on the air-waves.

● The "Go-West" C.M.C. (Kyle) took off to a good start at the end of May, the numbers being slightly lesser than hoped for. The venue's comfortable, the audience friendly, the good music was supplied by Clovis Country and there's all the ingredients for a successful club. The only incident which marred my evening was on the drive home a stag ran into the side of my car and did considerable damage, but that can be fixed.

● Happily the attendance at Blair Atholl CMC Club's May meeting followed April's really good turn out, I also hear that things are looking brighter again at Peterhead, perhaps the black cloud of apathy moving away from these parts.

● Plenty happening for fans in the North this month with Kid Wayne & the KWC Band, Shaun Michael, The Star Band, Shotgun Trio and Norwood touring. The Inverness Festival on 25th/26th and Dingwall Fire Brigade Country Concert on 22nd. Anyone wishing more information feel free to give me a call, same goes for holiday makers in the area. As usual news, views and comments to 56, Kilmuir Road, Inverness or telephone 0463-221268.

Gerry Ford

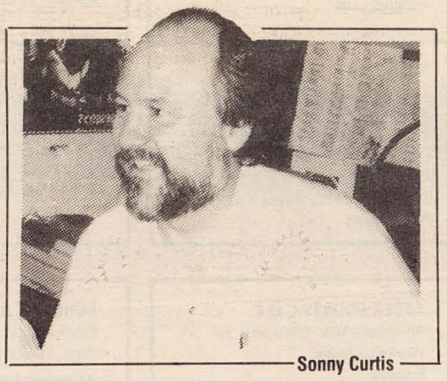
Lothian / Borders
by: Jackie Blair

● It's all change for Scottish country bands once again. Hank West & High Country have disbanded with lead guitarist Gordon moving to the Duke Boys who now have a five piece band and sound better now than they ever did.
Gambler have split completely having only founder member Dougie Sim who is in the process of forming a new band. Drummer Willie McKay moves to Bobbie & Nashville.
Scot's Country Comfort lose bass player Scott who is moving to the continent to play the bars with Canadian, Bill Huggins.
The J F. Stone Band are also losing their bass player Chris...
Popular Edinburgh band, Route 65 have cut back on their gigs, because Maureen, their vocalist has a throat disorder, but expect to be back to normal later this year to lay down tracks for their second album.

HOLIDAY NOTES

Tommy Truesdale info's he's now appearing at "Talk of Ayr" Nightclub at Sundrum Holiday Park, Ayrshire every Sunday until September, every Wednesday in July and August at "The Clansman" Nightclub at Sandilands (Holiday Caravan Park) Saltcoats and the "Beach Pavillion Theatre" in Girvan every Friday Scott's Country Comfort will be found playing Anstruther Holiday Park in Fife every Wednesday up to the end of August 87.

The Edinburgh Charity Organisation are bringing some great acts to Edinburgh including Sonny Curtis, Wes McGhee in July and Cajun/Rock Band Le Rue in September.
Elgin band, Maggie and Tennesee Express who recently payed their first visit to the South of England with a diary of re-bookings from the clubs they appeared at. The band have a nice cassette on sale at the moment entitled "Always On My Mind". Another band with a tape released at the moment is highly rated Lothian's band, "Nebraska." The tape entitled "As We Are" features vocalist Bill Alexander on mostly Gene Watson songs at which he excels and one self penned song, the cajun styled "Where The Bayou Waters Flow".



Sonny Curtis

Manson Grant & Dynamos Receiving The Band Of The Year Award From The Provost Of Nithsdale
Others In Photograph Are Jim Kerr And Joe Kirk Of The Double 'K' C.M.C.

Congratulations to the Penville CMC, Penicuik on their recent ninth anniversary. Gerry Ford and The Duke Boys entertained on the eve of the celebrations and drew a packed house.
Sandy McLeod, President of the Pheonix C & W Club info's that his club is still going strong in 'The Roadhouse',Dunfermline and Double 'K' CMC Pressy, Jim Kerr reports that it was standing room only for the visit of Vernon Oxford and Hickory Lake. This is one club that never has any bother filling the hall at their monthly meetings.
My own local Tucson CMC is going from strength to strength at the moment, with recent visits by Gerry Ford who always draws a big crowd at the Tucson, The Duke Boys and the first appearance at the club by Edinburgh band "Jack Easy". They are an excellent five piece band who could be destined to go places. The band used their visit to the Tuscon Club to record their first cassette which should be on sale as you are reading this.

The Hibs A.F.C. Supporters Social Club in Portobello are featuring country music every Thursday evening with Country Flavour appearing every other week.

Please send any local information to:-

122, Brunton Gardens EDINGBURGH EH7 5ET
031-556-9642

Scots Scene
by: Bob Wallace

● The Stirling Festival has George Hamilton IV at the Albert Hall this month as feature highlight of various Festival Week of events. This is George IV's first Scottish concert of 1987, so full house signs should be a formality. It's encouraging to see Country Music setting 'Main Event' status over in the East... Incidently, Stirling University continued their "campus Country" very successfuly throughout the recent term, with a 3 hour radio show hosted by Stewart Fenwick, their survey for the most played artist of last year found Reba McIntire in first place, followed by The Statlers then Kathy Mettea...

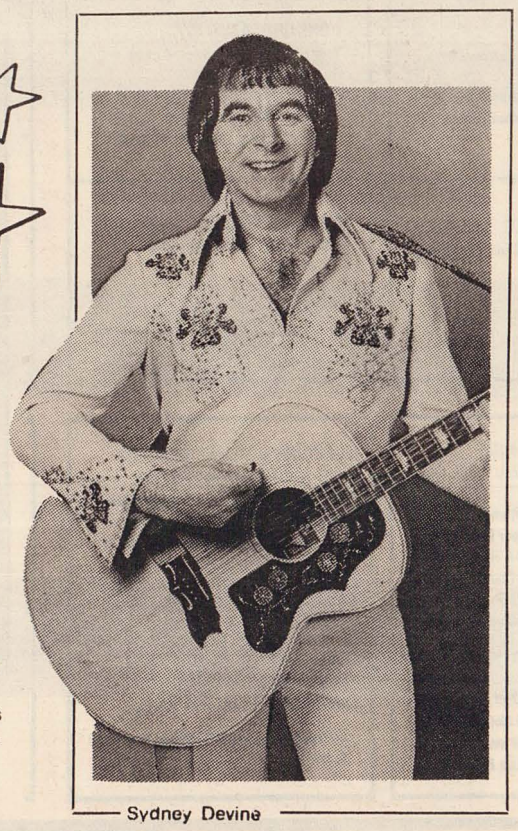
I note the title of an old Everly Brothers tune has been adopted as the name of a recently formed four-piece from the Glasgow area ... Del Rio Dan isn't too easy to say, but given the amount of work put into creating this new combo, I look forward to seeing their name appearing a great deal in the future.

● "Nebraska" a group from the Edinburgh area have released their first cassette titled 'As We Are' its very entertaining and representative of the bands live sound.

Quite a lot of Gene Watson songs via lead singer Bill Alexander's excellent voice on this collection, so its sure to add to this already highly popular band's list of admirers.

● A chance phone call from Colorado's Public Relations Manager, Irene Paterson, to West Coast Promotions Entertainment Agency resulted in a first time visit to two of the regional venues. The superb Southern Star Country and Western Club in the Europa Lounge (Ayr) had a group cry off. So Club President Bert Jess having seen Colorado perform at venues all over Britain was glad to see his club play host to his favourite Country Band ... The Yellow Rose C&W CLub (Paisley) also snapped up the chance to have Colorado in their very original and forward looking premises, Carol an Bobby Silver shared this show.

● The Duffy Brothers have appeared twice in this area recently, each show was very entertaining, but given more order in the Southern Star in Ayr, their true talent and skill captured the crowd from comical start to brilliant musical crescendo. A wonderfully funny combination, Ray and Leo are rightly regarded as without peers in Country Music 'Entertainment' ... Something which is conspicuous by its absence from many 'Top' British and overseas artistes. haste Ye Back lads ...



Sydney Devine

● Two very successful days for Paisley's Country shows, where stewards had to rapidly re-erect crowd barriers for the appearance of Sydney Devine after the excitable crowd managed to almost uproot the original fence in their efforts to get close to the stage ... The second day was slightly lower key due to the continual threat of bad weather it was nonetheless a highly entertaining show offering me my first view of the Blue Ridge Band. The Prairie Moon steelie Stuart Logan with his recently formed five-piece performed a cross-section of old and modern material, much to the audience's delight ...

● Country Dawn head off to the North Wales to appear at a "Wild West" week in Beddgelert shortly (a part of the landscape well known to North Wales born lead guitarist bonjo picker Dez), They have decided to stick more to the Country Music circuit this year after tying themselves to a season of work with Butlin's last term.

● With Irvine's Country Festival looming and the possibility of Kilmarnock hosting one in September, the continual upsurge in popularity of our music goes on here in West and Central Scotland, as does the openings for work for established and newly-formed bands.

Well, thats all for now, news and views to 8, Sidlaw Place, Bellfield, Kilmarnock and on 0563 ... 35292. Bye for now, Bob Wallace.

ROUND THE REGIONS

COMING Events

THE END OF THE TRAIL C.M.C
The Farmers Arms, Kempsey Common, Kempsey, Worcester
Alt/Sats
11 The Whiskey River Band. 25 Country Company & Terry Carroll. 8 Mel Hague

SOUTHERN STAR C.W.C.
Europa Lounge. New Rd, Ayr
Wednesdays
1 Country Dawn. 8 Skin & Bone. 15 Vision Country Music. 22 Nebraska. 29 Kentucky Bourbon

HARROW C.M.C
Morritts 'ADJ Wealdstone FC, Station Rd, Harrow, Middx Thursday
2 Rio. 9 West Virginia. 16 Amarillo. 23 Campbells Country. 30 Sunset Boulevard

WOLVERHAMPTON C.M.C.
The Hollybush, Penn Rd, Wolverhampton Thursdays
2 Bobbie & Nashville Pride. 9 Bridget & Country Cobblers. 16 Country Company. 23 Kenny Johnson & Northwind. 30 T.B.A.

RIVERSIDE C.M.C.
Riverside Leisure Centre. Banks. Nr Southport
Wednesdays and Saturdays
1 The EverGlades. 4 Bob McKinlay & Dixie Fried. 8 Stu Page & Remuda. 11 Apache. 15 Cody's County. 18 West Virginia. 22 Clints Collection. 25 Kevin Duffy's Band. 29 Joe Piper's Band

TRIPLE 'P'
Boscomoor Social Club, Boscomoor Lane, Penkridge, Staffs Sunday
5 Rio–Grande & Jim Ryder. 12 Foster Boys. 19 Saddle Tramps. 26 Truck Shop

SILVERADO C.M.C.
Salisury Conservative Club, Badger Street, Moorgate, Bury, Lancashire
Wednesday
1 Sweetwater Creek. 8 Shindig. 15 Dave McQueen & Buckskin. 22 Cliff Leger Family. 29 Stone Creek

GOLDEN WEST C.M.C.
Little London, Caravan Park, Torksey, Lincs
Sundays
5 Hank Hillmans Hole In The Wall Band. 12 Shack Band. 19 Adey's Hardware Company. 26 Kevin Duffy Band

WILDWOOD SOUTH C.M.C.
Millbrook School, Lower Brownhill Road, Maybush, Southhampton
Saturdays
4 Dave Lord & Country Gold. 11 Bandit. 18 Homer. 25 Foster Boys.

YORK C.M.C.
York City Arms Sports Club, Fawcett St, York
Thursdays
2 Iona & Andy. 9 Rogue Band. 16 Pete Palmer Country Band. 23 John Aston Trio. 30 Black Spur Road Band

BORDER PATROL C.W.C
c/o The Irish Club, Basildon Rd, Laindon, Essex Fridays
3 Brett. 10 Dave Keen. 17 T.B.A., 24 Arizona. 31 Pinto

THE STABLES
Bond End, Knaresborough, N Yorks
Alt Saturdays
4 Dave Bryan with Pat & Roger Johns.

GO COUNTRY CLUB
Glaxo Sports & Social Club, Harmre Road, Barnard Castle, Co Durham
5 Gerry Ford & The New Duke Boys

HULL C.M.C. (Olivers)
2 Norfolk St, Beverley Rd, Hull
Fridays
3 Stu Page & Remuda. 10 Dave Wilson. 17 Collier Dixon Line. 24 Sundown Trio. 31 Bob Allison

LAZYCRE C.M.C.
S.H.A. Hospital Club, Racecourse lane, Shrewsbury, Shropshire
Fortnightly Mondays
13 Pinkertons Colours. Johnny Marks. Tony Best. 27 Bob Newman & Carole Gordon. Shotgun Trio. Tony Best

WOLVERHAMPTON C.M.C.
The Albion. Lichfield Rd, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton
Fridays
3 Pinkertons Colours. 10 Spill The Beans. 17 Whiskey River. 24 Montana. 31 Roger Humphries & Band

H BAR C
Workingham, Berks. Thursday
2 Firewater. 9 Cactus Jack. 16 Pedro. 23 Tony Aston & Original Shades. 30 Billy Finnigan & Stagecoach

THE VILLAGE INN C.M.C
High Street. Skelmersdale. Lancs
Monthly
19 Stone Creek & Ian Ashcrofts Country Express

DOUBLE K
Hotel Embassy, NewBridge, Dumfries Monthly
19 Iona & Andy & Sarah Jory

BORDER BADLANDS C.M.C.
Auld Smiddy, Gretna Green
1st Sunday
5 Spill The Beans

ALAMO C.M.C.
Normanby Hotel, Normanby, Middlesbro.
Tuesdays
7 Chris Kelly Duo. 14 Maggie & Tennessee Express. 21 T.B.A., 28 T.B.A.

FIGHTING COCK
Monteney Cresent, Ecclesfield, Sheffield Wednesday and Saturday
1 Dave Bryan. 4 John Lowndes Duo. 8 Pete Jones Duo. 11 Dusty Gold. 15 Sandy Rose. 18 T.B.A., 22 Les Close. 25 Russ Carlton. 29 Paul Carr

RIVERBOAT C.M.C.
Blackwell Street, Kidderminster.
5 Lane Travis Double Eagle. 12 Country Company. 19 Whisky River. 26 Delta Dawn

THE HIGH NOON C.M.C.
Brimington Club, High St, Brimington, Nr Chesterfield
Tuesday and Last Saturday
7 Dave Bryan with Pat & Roger Johns. 14 Tony Dallas And Katy. 21 Tony Best (1st Anniversary). 25 T.B.A., 28 Gary Roberts

LEASOWE CASTLE C.M.C.
Leasowe Castle Hotel, Leasowe Rd, Morton, Merseyside
Thursdays
2 Couger. 9 Wild & Wooley. 16 Carol Weston & Country Sunshine. 23 Fort Worth Fever. 30 Hartford West

BIG 'G' C.M.C.
Forest Folk Hotel, Bildworth, Mansfield, Notts
Thursdays
9 Dillinger. 16 T.B.A., 27 T.B.A., 30 Out Of Hand. Mon 20 Raymond Froggatt & Adey's Hardware Co

IPSWICH C.W.C.
Bridgeward Conservative Club, Austin St, Ipswich
Wednesdays
1 T.B.A., 8 Rose A. 15 Garnertye Country Band. 22 Smith 'N' Jones. 29 Clancy

STRETFORD C.M.C.
George Carnall Sports Centre, Kingsway Park, Davyhulme, Manchester
2nd Tuesday
14 Kenny Johnson & Northwind

BREDBURY C.M.C
Bents Lane Social Club, Bents Lane, Bredbury Monthly
18 The Mick Conlin Band. 'Charity Show' Presentation Night. Pendlebury Hospital Fund

ABERDEEN C.W.C
The Hotel Metro, 17 Market Street, Aberdeen Tuesdays
7 Dixie & Allon & The Back Room Boys Plus Support. 14 Gerry Ford & The Duke Boys & Norwood. 21 Iona & Andy & Sarah Jory. 28 Kid Wayne & KWC Band Plus Support

WOLVERHAMPTON C.M.C.
The Albion, Lichfield Rd, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton
Sundays
5 Westwood. 12 Clovis. 19 Stu Page & Remuda. 26 Saddletramps

CON'S COUNTRY
Kings Rd, Immingham
Saturdays
4 Louisiana Hellraisers. 11 Iona & Andy. 18 John Aston. 25 Collier Dixon Line (15th Anniversary Show)

THE WELCOME C.M.C.
Lancastrian Squash Club, East Bond St – Leigh Lancs
Sundays
5 The Rogue Band. 12 T.P. Stubbs & The Bar Room Band. 19 Johnny Spencer & Co. 26 Clints Collections

LAKESIDE VIEW HOTEL
Bawtry Rd, Hatfield Woodhouse, Doncaster
Weekly
3John Lowndes Band, 10 Rivendel, 17 Mick Smith, 24 Linda & Arthur James, 31 Ricki Sylva

HIGH LANE C.M.C.
High Lane Conservative Club, Buxton Road, High Lane, Stockport.
Saturday
4 Shack Band. 11 Randy Blue And Deep Water. 18 Scots Country Comfort. 25 Clints Collection (High Lane Village Hall)

HAZEL GROVE C.M.C.
Reform Club, Napier Street, Hazel Grove, Stockport.
5 Dillinger. 8 Hank Walters And Dusty Road Ramblers (Charity Show). 12 Clints Collection. 19 Bobbie & Nashville Pride. 26 Desperado

INVERNESS C.W.C
The Park Suite, Inverness Ice Centre
Tuesdays
7 Norwood & Shotgun Trio. 14 Manson Grant & The Dynamos. 21 Kid Wayne & KWC Band Plus Shaun Michael. 28 The Star Band

FOUR ON THE FLOOR
Hounslow F.C., Denbigh Rd, Hounslow, Middx
7 Amarillo. 14 Nashville Fever. 21 Julie Byrne Band. 28 (Club At York House) Pinkerton's Colours. Jan Mark & Norman Russell

TUCSON C.M.C.
The Berry Suite, Edinburgh
6 Dixie & P.T. Christie, 13 Transatlantic & Mel Hague, 20 Starband (Iona & Andy, Sarah Jory & George Foster), 27 Route 65 & Keith Manifold

DOUBLE 'B' C.M.C.
Community Centre – Wycombe Rd, Studley Green – Bucks
Tuesdays
7 Spellbound. 14 Southern Breeze. 21 Tulsa Time. 28 Bily Finnegan and Stagecoach

CADES COUNTY C.M.C.
Shireoaks MW, Shireoaks, Nr Worksop, Notts
Fridays
3 Pete Jones Outfit. 10 Collier Dixon Line. 17 Pete Palmer Band. 24 Darren. Dale & Ian. 31 Lazy Dog

CIRCLE W WESTERNERS
Upper Church Lane, Tipton, West Midlands
Saturdays
4 Cripple Creek Band. 11 Westwood. 18 Whiskey River. 25 Spellbound

BORDER C.M.C.
Black & Gold Social Club, Shelfield Park, Tweedmouth, Berwick
14 Hickory Lake

DENTON WEST END C.M.C.
West End Social Club, Grosvenor St, Denton, Manchester
23 Randy Blue & Deep Water

COLT 45 CLUB Monthly
Beachstation Caravan Park, Felixstowe
'Cimarron'

COLCHESTER C.M.C.
Woods Leisure Centre
1 & 3 Thursdays
2 Campbells Country. 16 Billy Finegan & Stagecoach

OUTLAWS C.M.C.
Lanchester Social Club, New Biggin Rd, Lanchester, Co Durham
Saturdays
4 Tony Andrews & Raincheck. 11 Cross Country. 18 Clints Collection. 25 Carolina

ROSSINGTON LABOUR CLUB
Gattison Lane, Rossington, Doncaster, S Yorkshire.
Mondays
6 Rogue Band. 13 Armadillo. 20 Keith James Trio. 27 The Daltons

BRAMLEY SOCIAL CLUB
Cross Street, Bramley, Rotherham
Thursdays
2 Dave Bryan Trio. 9 Chuck Layburn & Railroaders. 16 Johnny Marks. 23 Mick Conlin Band. 30 Bordello

ROOSTERS
Old Main Road, Old Leake, Lincs
Weekly Wednesday
1 Kevin Duffy Band. 8 Randy Lewis Band. 15 Linda and Arthur James. 22 Santa Fe. 29 Scirroco

WHITE HORSE C.W.C.
Held In The Labour Club, Saltcoats, Ayrshire
Fortnightly
3 Colorado. 10 Blue Ridge Band. 24 Bakersfield

PONDOROSA C.W.C
The Pine Mine, Ipswich Street, Stowmarket, Suffolk
Fridays
3 Western Rodeo. 10 Laurie Peppar Band. 17 Clancy. 24 & 31 NO CLUB

DORMANS ATHLETIC CLUB
Oxford Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland
Thursdays
2 Palamino. 9 Kenny Johnson Band. 16 Campbells Country. 23 T.B.A., 30 T.B.A.

Entertainment
Round The Regions . . . *Enquiries (0788) 79431*

CLIFFSONS C.M.C.
Railway Club, Wrexham, N Wales
6 Annual Awards Show The Chisomes. Iona & Andy. Mel Hague. 13 Jim Ryder. 20 Kenny Rowlands Duo. 27 Country Style (Resident Host Jeff Cliffson)

SECRETARIES
To Qualify
FOR YOUR CLUB LISTING.
PHONE
0522 41546

BIDDS C.W.C. Fri & Sat
Sutherland Rd, Longton, Stoke on Trent, Staffs
3 T.B.A., 4 Stu Page & Remuda. 10 Pete Martin Trio. 11 Black Spur Road Band. 17 Dave Bryan with Pat & Roger Johns. 18 Joe Piper & Country Courage. 24 Campbells Country. 25 Billy Finnigan & Stagecoach. 31 Yellowstone Picnic

ELGIN C 'W CLUB
St Leaonards Hotel, Duff Avenue.
2 Mackie Sutherland 9 Shotgun Trio. 16 Kid Wayne Band. 23 Iona & Andy & Sarah Jory. 30 Tom Lee & Blue Ridge

GLASGOW'S GRAND OLD OPRY
2/4 Govan Rd, Paisley Rd, Toll,
3 Western Front. 4 Craig Doogan Band. 5 Gambler. 10 Scotch Country Comfort. 11 Tommy Truesdale & Sundowners. 12 Freeway. 17 Buzzard Creek. 18 Les Close Band. 19 Nebraska. 24 Angleen & Country Cousins. 25 Carmel & Kentucky. 26 Country Band. 31 Route 65

HIGH PEAK C.M.C
Railway Hotel, Buxton, Derbys
10 Dave McQueen & Buckskin Plus Ricki Sylva